

Shame of the game in India

By John Goodbody
Bobby Robinson and Mike Gatting had never before been in the company of the Prime Minister of India. Rajiv Gandhi yesterday banned Indian athletes from participating in all international sports except cricket, in which India hold the World Cup and which they happen to be playing with Pakistan next week because of the country's poor performance in September's Asian Games in South Korea.

He immediately ordered a review of India's sporting performance in Seoul where the 1982 Commonwealth Games were held. The review was to be completed by the end of the month. The review was to be completed by the end of the month. The review was to be completed by the end of the month.

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No 62,644

Kinnock urged to defend hard left councils

By Richard Evans and Philip Webster

Mr Neil Kinnock's long-running battle with the militant left flared up again yesterday when he launched moves to discipline the new leader of Liverpool City Council.

The party leader faced the wrath of hard-left council leaders, who accused him of failing to defend them against the Tories' "loony left" campaign.

Mr Bernie Grant, the hard left leader of Haringey council, angrily accused Mr Kinnock of "doing a tremendous disservice to Labour councils and the whole party" by not standing by Labour-controlled authorities under fire from the Government for pursuing controversial policies on racism, and lesbian and gay rights.

In a signed front page article in Campaign Group News, published by the hard left group of Campaign MPs, Mr Grant said: "The party leadership would do themselves and the party a lot of good if they defended Labour councils against Tory attacks."

Meanwhile, at the National Executive Committee, Mr Kinnock initiated moves which could lead to the expulsion from the party of Mr Tony Byrne, recently installed as the new Liverpool Labour

group leader and Mr Tony Hood, the secretary.

The hard-left Mr Byrne, who became leader in a coup which deposed the long-serving Mr John Hamilton, infuriated Mr Kinnock by continuing to recognize the expelled Mr Derek Hutton as deputy leader.

Yesterday, against strong opposition from the left, he moved that the cases of the two men be referred to the

is a little clique who, for one reason or another, want to keep Derek Hutton in the public eye."

His action and words delighted members of the centre and right on the executive, who believe there is continuing electoral advantage in Mr Kinnock being seen as eager to take on extremist elements in the party.

The onslaught from Mr Grant comes only weeks after Mr Kinnock publicly denounced the "zealotry" of some left wing council leaders, which he said was providing ammunition to Labour's opponents.

The Conservatives have successfully mounted a prolonged campaign against the activities of certain "loony left" councils, which senior Labour MPs acknowledge has damaged their own electoral hopes.

But in his article, Mr Grant insists that councils like Haringey, Brent, Lambeth, Hackney and Manchester are only implementing Labour policy.

"We face hysterical attacks because we act on party policy. We've collected all the facts in reply to the Tories and the Press. We've given them to Neil Kinnock, to Jack Straw (Labour's local government spokesman) and to John Cunningham (shadow environment secretary)."

"But they have simply refused to use them to defend us. They are doing a tremendous disservice to Labour councils and the whole party."

Mr Grant, who has been backed by 21 votes to six, told the executive in an impassioned speech: "Let us not forget what was done to John Hamilton. That has not been forgotten or forgiven in Liverpool."

"It is demoralizing for the people of Liverpool to see that John Hamilton has been kicked out just because there



Mr Kinnock: Impassioned speech to the NEC.

Tomorrow

Tales of the head



This is a marble head of Archilles, bought by the Getty Museum for \$2.5 million. Or is it a Roman copy, worth \$60,000? Or even a fake, worth \$1,000? A look at an art controversy.

On Saturday

Don't miss the special Christmas Jumbo Crossword, with five £50 prizes.

Portfolio Gold

There is £8,000 to be won today in The Times Portfolio Gold competition as there was no winner yesterday. Portfolio list, page 25; how to play, information service, 20.

TIMES BUSINESS

Land deal

British Land is raising £92 million to buy Euston Centre Investments, part owner of the Euston Centre in London, and to finance two other projects. Page 21

Oil deadlock

Iran called for Iraq's suspension from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries as talks on curbing production remained deadlocked over Iraq's output quota. Page 21

TIMES SPORT

Race with time

Harold Cadmore, skipper of White Crusader, Britain's failed America's Cup challenger, maintains that time was not on the side of his campaign. Page 36

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Mrs Thatcher yesterday led Julie McGurk and Martin Grove, followed by Jennifer Grant, across the road in Hyde Park, London, to promote road safety. The children were winners in a painting competition for European Road Safety Year. (Photograph: Bill Warkurst)

Shooting range killings

By Stewart Teadler
Crime Reporter

A police and military inquiry began yesterday into a shooting incident on an Army range in which a young private pumped bullets into a corporal and then turned his gun on himself.

Private Nicholas Burnup, aged 17, from Brighton, died immediately. Corporal David John Burnstead, aged 25, from St Ives, Cambridgeshire, was wounded by four shots and later died at a hospital in Ashford, Kent.

A spokesman for Kent police said they were not looking for anyone in connection with the deaths. An Army spokesman said there was no question of an accidental discharge or any doubts about breaches of safety rules on the ranges.

The shooting took place yesterday at the high security ranges at Hythe, Kent, as men from the 3rd Battalion, Queen's Regiment, were being trained to use 9mm Browning pistols. The ranges are used by troops facing possible duties in Northern Ireland.

Corporal Burnstead, a member of the Royal Pioneer Corps and married for five months, worked permanently at the range.

The day's training for the battalion, which arrived last Sunday for an eight-day course, was underway. Soldiers were carrying out target practice on an elementary range.

The corporal was in his hut when other troops in the area heard shots. They saw the private emerge from the hut and shoot himself in the head.

Miner's wife gets world's first triple transplant surgery

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Mrs Davina Thompson, a Yorkshire miner's wife, was recovering in a Cambridge hospital yesterday after becoming the world's first patient to receive a new heart, lungs and liver.

The unique triple transplant, which involved a team of 15 surgeons, anaesthetists and nurses, took seven hours to perform. It required the co-operation of three hospitals and the collaboration of two eminent transplant surgeons in the operating theatre at Papworth Hospital.

Mrs Thompson, aged 35, of Rawmarsh, near Rotherham, South Yorkshire, had been suffering for several years from a serious liver complaint, and had been assessed as a transplant candidate.

She then developed severe pulmonary hypertension, which meant that to perform the liver graft first would probably have caused her heart to fail.

Mrs Thompson, who has a daughter, Stephanie, aged nine, last month joined the waiting list at Papworth for a new heart and lungs. The decision to carry out the combined operations was made after suitable donor organs, all from the same unidentified patient, were made available on Tuesday.

She was alerted by a radio bleep provided by the hospital. The donor organs were flown to Papworth by helicopter from the John Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford.

Mrs Thompson and her husband, Steve, were flown from Leeds-Bradford airport to the United States Air Force base at Alconbury, which was opened especially for the flight. They were then driven 10 miles to Papworth.

The surgery began soon after midnight. It first involved the exchange of the heart and lungs by Mr John Wallwork, Papworth's leading transplant specialist. The liver graft was then performed by Professor Sir Roy Calne, of Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, a world expert in the field. About 250 such grafts have been carried out there since 1968.

Mrs Celia Wright, transplant co-ordinator at Addenbrooke's, said: "For such a young woman, the patient did not have a very high quality of life. Whenever we do transplants of more than one organ, the organs come from the same donor. This helps overcome the risks of rejection."

Wayne Smith was admitted to hospital on Monday suffering from what his parents thought was a strained ligament. His doctor had sent him for an x-ray, but when he arrived at the hospital he was diagnosed as having a virus and admitted. He died on Tuesday night.

"We just can't believe it," his father, Mr Terry Smith, said. He was such an active child. We had taken part in the recent tests for meningitis and got nothing back, but we will now be retested for it."

Last month a screening project started in Stonehouse in an attempt to trace how the meningococcal meningitis has been spreading in the area. Interim results identified 70 carriers of the more serious B15 strain and 700 other carriers—a result which reflects normal levels throughout the country.

Reagan due for prostate surgery

From Michael Binyon
Washington

President Reagan will go into hospital next month for a minor operation on an enlarged prostate gland, the White House said yesterday. But it emphasized that the problem was "not urgent".

He will enter Bethesda Naval Hospital on January 4 for tests to follow up on his operation last year for colon cancer.

The next day surgeons will perform the prostate operation under a local spinal anaesthetic. He will be awake during the entire 40-minute procedure and remain in hospital for about four days.

The operation, called a trans-urethral resection of the prostate, is to alleviate mild recurring urinary discomfort. It is not a full removal of the gland, a major operation that requires lengthy rest and recuperation afterwards.

Mr Larry Speakes, the White House spokesman, said the operation was common in men over 50. The prostate is a small organ about the size of a walnut, located next to the bladder and surrounding the urethra, the urinary canal. An enlarged prostate can make urination difficult, and the operation involves the removal of small amounts of tissue from the urinary tract to enlarge it.

Mr Reagan, at 75 the oldest President in US history, underwent a similar operation and a complete bladder examination in 1967. No trace of cancer was found then, and Mr Speakes said that the prostate operation was not related to Mr Reagan's cancer surgery last year.

The operation will be performed by Dr David Utz of the renowned Mayo Clinic in Rochester, New York, with Dr J. R. Biers, a family friend, assisting.

There are no plans to invoke the constitutional provision temporarily handing over presidential power to the Vice President, Mr George Bush, as Mr Reagan will at no time be unconscious.

Meanwhile, the condition of Mr William Casey, the director of the Central Intelligence Agency who suffered two minor seizures on Monday, is said to be comfortable and stable. He is undergoing tests at a hospital in Washington.

28,000 more postmen wanted

By Edward Townsend
Industrial Correspondent

The Post Office is to employ an additional 28,000 postmen and women in the next five years to cope with the increasing use being made of the nation's postal service.

The new jobs, of which about a quarter will be part-time, were announced yesterday despite the disclosure of a big, but expected, reduction in profits to £21 million for the six months ending October 1. For the year as a whole, a profit of more than £100 million is expected.

Mr Bill Cockburn, managing director, posts, said that the extra staff would be needed in delivery and sorting operations.

At the same time he announced that the Post Office was to extend second deliveries, currently available only in towns and cities, to 400,000 addresses in the semi-rural outskirts of urban areas where there had been recent housing developments.

In what was described as "the biggest ever campaign aimed specifically at delivery performance", about 20,000 new recruits will be required. The additional 8,000 will be needed for the Post Office's drive to reduce overtime.

Sir Ronald Dearing, the chairman, said that Post Office workers last year worked 55 million man hours of overtime, 15 per cent of the total working time.

The Post Office is now experiencing the biggest growth in letter and parcel sending in its history. A record 46 million letters a day were handled by the Post Office in the six months to October and employment grew by 3,000.

The Post Office now employs 183,614 people of which 120,000 are postmen and sorting staff.

This Christmas, which has seen the Post Office offer for sale 300 million discounted stamps, is proving to be the most successful for the Royal Mail.

In the first 15 days of December, 910 million items were posted, 115 million on December 15 alone. This was swollen by the 4.5 million share certificates sent out to new shareholders in privatized British Gas.

Post Office profits, page 21

Champion took drugs

New York (AP) — Tim Witterspoon, who lost the World Boxing Association heavyweight title on a first-round knockout to James "Bonecrusher" Smith last Friday, failed drug tests both before and after the fight, Mr Jose Torres, chairman of the New York State Athletic Commission, said last night.

The tests revealed marijuana in Witterspoon's system and Mr Torres said that he would take action against the former champion next week. After Witterspoon won the title last January in Atlanta, a post-fight test revealed marijuana in his system and the WBA fined him \$25,000. Details, page 36

Labour in Wapping jailing row

By Our Political Staff

Mr Neil Kinnock was under attack last night after supporting a move calling for the release of a print union activist imprisoned for assaulting a policeman outside the News International plant at Wapping.

Michael Hicks, aged 49, an executive member of Sogat 82, received a 12-month sentence, with eight months suspended, at Southwark Crown Court this month after being branded a "disgrace" by the judge.

Labour's national executive passed without a vote yesterday a motion condemning the arrest and imprisonment of Hicks.

Last night Mr Gerald Howarth, Conservative MP for Cannock and Burntwood, was tabling a motion calling on Mr Kinnock to state his position on the rule of law.

"Wapping is one of the standing disgraces of modern trade unionism, involving as it has the continuing practice of preventing other trade unionists from going to work."

"If a party which aspires to government is not prepared to support the rule of law, it is surely not fit to govern."

Cabinet to defuse Awacs row

By Philip Webster
Chief Political Correspondent

Ministers hope to enter the Christmas recess with the controversy over the new airborne early warning system for the RAF largely buried.

After a Cabinet discussion this morning Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Defence, is expected to tell the Commons this afternoon that the Government has plumped for the Boeing Airborne Warning and Control System.

It is widely expected that the Speaker will accede to any demand for an immediate debate, which would take place tonight. The move would not be unwelcome to the Government which believes that it would allow the sting to be taken out of the issue.

The Cabinet's Overseas and Defence Policy Committee met last night under Margaret Thatcher's chairmanship to consider the two bids. The paper prepared by the Ministry of Defence recommending Awacs was said by one minister to be "devastatingly convincing" so the committee is believed to have recommended it.

The day's training for the battalion, which arrived last Sunday for an eight-day course, was underway. Soldiers were carrying out target practice on an elementary range.

Reply demand in MI5 case

By Michael Evans, Whitehall Correspondent

The Government is expected to demand the right of reply in the MI5 court case in Australia after accusations by the defence counsel that Sir Robert Armstrong, the Cabinet Secretary, and Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney-General, had been guilty of lies and dishonesty.

In his final submission, Mr Malcolm Turnbull produced a devastating array of allegations against the Government over its handling of the case involving the book, *Spycatcher*, written by Mr Peter Wright, the former MI5 officer.

Mr Turnbull accused Sir Michael of "the worst form of dishonesty" by allowing another man, Sir Robert, to lie on his behalf and then to do nothing to correct it.

He was referring to an answer given by Sir Robert on the second day of the hearing in the New South Wales Supreme Court when he said that it was the Attorney-General alone who had decided against stopping the publication of the book, *Their Trade is Treachery*, by Mr Chapman Pincher in 1981, which had been written in collaboration with Mr Wright.

A week later Sir Robert apologized to the court and confirmed that the decision had not been Sir Michael's. Mr Turnbull said that Sir Michael allowed the Cabinet Secretary to give evidence in court which he knew to be false.

The accusations brought no public response from Number 10 or from the Attorney-General. However, the Government's legal advisers were planning yesterday to draw up a full reply to the allegations. As it is a civil case the Government counsel has a right of reply.

Meningitis blamed as boy dies

By Jill Sherman

A boy aged seven, from Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, has died from suspected meningitis and another child, aged two, from the same village, also with suspected meningitis, is now in the intensive care unit of the Gloucestershire Royal Hospital, in Gloucester.

Wayne Smith was admitted to hospital on Monday suffering from what his parents thought was a strained ligament. His doctor had sent him for an x-ray, but when he arrived at the hospital he was diagnosed as having a virus and admitted. He died on Tuesday night.

"We just can't believe it," his father, Mr Terry Smith, said. He was such an active child. We had taken part in the recent tests for meningitis and got nothing back, but we will now be retested for it."

Last month a screening project started in Stonehouse in an attempt to trace how the meningococcal meningitis has been spreading in the area. Interim results identified 70 carriers of the more serious B15 strain and 700 other carriers—a result which reflects normal levels throughout the country.

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NEWS SUMMARY

Lawson curbs tax cut hopes

Mr Nigel Lawson poured cold water yesterday on rising hopes of big tax cuts in the Budget, despite the buoyancy in government revenue and lower than expected borrowing.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer told the Commons during a debate on his autumn statement: "I very much doubt whether there will be much scope for reductions in taxation". Mr Lawson said his scepticism stemmed from the £4.7 billion increase in public spending in 1987-88 announced last month, but public sector borrowing for this year was on track and more likely to undershoot than overshoot the £7 billion figure set at the last Budget.

Outside forecasters using the Treasury model and economic assumptions have concluded that there is scope for a 2p reduction in the basic rate of income tax.

Right to sue upheld

Former soldier Melvyn Pearce yesterday won the right to sue the Government for damages after being exposed to radiation during nuclear weapon tests.

The Ministry of Defence, which claimed exemption under the 1947 Crown Proceedings Act, plans to challenge yesterday's High Court decision in the House of Lords.

Mr Pearce, of Beckwell, Bristol, who has cancer of the blood, served on Christmas Island during atomic testing in 1958. The tests were carried out by the UK Atomic Energy Authority and because of negligence by their employees Mr Pearce suffered serious injury, the judge said.

Pet birds killed

Children were in tears yesterday after arriving at school and finding their pets had been slaughtered.

Twenty birds kept at Worsbrough Bank End School, Worsbrough Dale, near Barnsley, South Yorkshire, had been beheaded, including a goose called Daphne, which had been a school pet for 16 years.

Their bodies had been taken away but the heads had been left behind in pools of blood in the school's farm park, where the children, some as young as three years old, used to feed the birds every day.

IBA job for Bowe

Miss Colette Bowe, the Civil Servant at the centre of the Westland affair, was named yesterday as the new controller of information services at the Independent Broadcasting Authority.

Miss Bowe will succeed Miss Barbara Hosking, who is joining Yorkshire Television as a political consultant.

Miss Bowe, aged 40, an economist, and head of information at the Department of Trade and Industry since 1984, was named in the Commons as the official who leaked a letter from Sir Patrick Mayhew, Solicitor General, accusing Mr Michael Haselme of material inaccuracies in the Westland affair.

Village built for war

A village complete with 32 houses, a public house, church, and two farms is to be built by the Army on a Welsh mountain at a cost of £3 million, but no one will live there.

The village at Sennybridge, near Brecon, Powys, which is a mock-up of a European one, is to be used to train soldiers in urban warfare.

The houses will be shells with first floors, but will be able to withstand attack by light weapons.

The plans have been attacked by the Plaid Cymru MP for Merionnydd, Mr Dafydd Ellis Thomas. "Considering the problems that face Welsh housing, the Government would be better off spending the money on real homes rather than shells that no one can live in."

Appeal to keep M15 book ban

Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney General, asked a High Court judge yesterday to continue the ban on a book by former M15 agent, Joan Miller, although he has lost his battle to stop its publication in the Irish Republic.

The English distributors of *One Girl's War*, Turnaround Distribution Ltd, want Mr Justice Simon Brown to lift the injunction granted by the Attorney General last month.

They say that, after the decision in the High Court in Dublin earlier this month to overturn a ban on the book in the republic, no further harm could be done by publication in England.

But Sir Michael, who is not appealing against the Dublin order, still wants the ban to continue in England "in the interest of national security" and is opposing the company's application.

His counsel, Mr John Laws, told the judge that if state interests required a leak-proof security service, the republic's refusal to ban leaks over there did not make them harmless in this country.

He accepted that some of the book's contents were "classified" but denied that was necessarily the same as being damaging. Lifting the ban could result in friendly countries losing confidence in our ability to protect confidentiality.

The book's publishers challenge the Attorney General's case that a condition of Miss Miller's employment was not to divulge information for life. They also say it is unfair that the book can be distributed in the Irish Republic but not in Britain.

The judge said he would give his decision today.

Manpower Services adverts Accusaton of propaganda

By Ronald Farr, Employment Affairs Correspondent

Advertisements placed by the Manpower Services Commission have been reported to the Advertising Standards Authority as poorly disguised political propaganda and a breach of its code.

Mr Frank Field, chairman of the organization, Charter for Jobs, has asked the Independent Broadcasting Authority to investigate whether public money was being used to finance party political advertisements, and whether the current government advertising budget of £8.4 million breached the Code of Advertising Standards and Practice.

The Government, he said, claimed the aim was to inform the unemployed about the Restart scheme, but the real aim was to convince the 85 per cent in work that jobs were available if only the unemployed would "get off their backsides and find them."

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National guidelines promised to curb inquiries

By John Young

The Government yesterday undertook to issue national policy guidelines on such issues as energy, transport and urban development to reduce the length and expense of public inquiries.

In its response to a report from the Commons Select Committee on the Environment, the Government acknowledged the failings of the planning system and the need to restore its credibility.

"Nobody would disagree that the present procedures are a mess and that they need to be more tightly handled," Mr William Waldegrave, Minister for Environment, Coun-

no child will be exempt from a basic modular course which its members will present tomorrow at a meeting with Mr Baker.

Its diverse syllabus includes traditional subjects such as the study of Britain's economy, the role of political parties and trade unions as well as feminism, the "youth revolution", including the Beatles, and the growth of the leisure industry.

Pupils would also be required to scrutinize the holiday industry at home and abroad and Britain's expand-

ing role as a centre for tourism.

The president of the association, Professor Donald Read, who lectures in history at Kent University, laments the fact that half of secondary school children have abandoned the study of any history at 14.

"The idea behind this course is not just to encourage the study of history for its own sake, but to train our young people for life by making them more aware of their national heritage."

"After all, students in

France are required to examine fundamentals such as the French revolution and the leading role of France in the establishment of the Common Market and we should not be ashamed to follow suit."

Professor Read will impress upon Mr Baker a sentence from *History For Life*, a document submitted to the department this year. It reads: "The association much regrets that at present many children leave school knowing nothing, or virtually nothing about developments since 1945,

thus divorcing 'history' from their own lifetimes and even those of their parents."

One hour a week is all that would be needed to complete the two-year course which would take between 40 and 60 hours of teaching.

Professor Read emphasized that the syllabus was not intended as a replacement for GCSE history. Nevertheless, GCSE candidates following courses in non-contemporary history could sign up for the modular syllabus as a complement to their other studies.

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Prostitutes wipe out fines with stay in court

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Prostitutes are being allowed to write off hundreds of pounds in fines merely by sitting at the back of a courtroom for a few hours as a way of tackling the problem of defaulters.

One woman wrote off a £750 fine after spending only 45 minutes at the back of Birmingham magistrates' court, a rate equivalent to nearly £17 a minute.

The practice by magistrates of giving the option of "one day" or a fine is becoming increasingly common as a way to deal with penniless fine defaulters or in cases where a fine is pointless.

But it has come to a head over the offence of soliciting since imprisonment was abolished in 1982 and magistrates find themselves with only the sanction of imposing fine after fine, which can encourage more soliciting, or imprisonment for non-payment.

Mr David Summers, the deputy magistrates' clerk, said: "If a woman has a large number of fines, justices may impose a one-day detention sentence and remit the rest."

Magistrates were often fearful that if they inflicted the relevant fine the woman would return to prostitution to pay the fine, he added.

The detention was "a mark of the frustration and the difficulties in which magistrates find themselves" since imprisonment was removed.

At Birmingham magistrates' court, during two days, two out of 13 prostitutes appearing before the justices have been allowed to write off their sentences in this way.

Yesterday Mr Brian Forster, secretary to the Justices' Clerks' Society, said that the practice was quite common for certain kinds of offences which do not otherwise carry a sentence of imprisonment, such as taking a vehicle and driving away, and driving with no licence.

"If you have a defaulter owing fines from way back, you don't want to send him down; so you can convert it into one day's imprisonment," he said.

In that way the court marked its disfavour and at



Mr Michael Winner, the film director and chairman of the Police Memorial Trust, laying a floral tribute yesterday to the Harrods bomb victims (Photograph: Chris Harris).

Bomb victims remembered

Police held a tribute for three colleagues yesterday on the third anniversary of their deaths in the Harrods bomb blast.

An emotional one-minute silence was held on the spot where Inspector Stephen Dodd, Sergeant Noel Lane and Woman Police Constable Jane Arbutnot were killed by a car bomb planted during the IRA's Christmas 1983 bombing campaign.

The remembrance service began at 1.17pm - the exact moment when the massive explosion ripped into the Harrods building.

Officers from Chelsea Police Station and Harrods security staff formed a guard of honour as tokens of remembrance were laid at the foot of a memorial stone in Hans Crescent.

Wreaths of flowers were laid by police representatives, Harrods staff and Mr Michael Winner, the film director, founder and chairman of the Police Memorial Trust.

Mr Winner also found the service moving. He has campaigned on behalf of the Police Memorial Trust and received backing from film actors such as Mr Marlon Brando, Mr Robert Mitchum and Mr Roger Moore, as well as Cabinet ministers.

He said afterwards: "I believe it is important to remember police officers who die doing their duty on behalf of the public."

● A bench was unveiled yesterday in memory of the two

schoolgirls who were killed in Brighton, East Sussex.

Karen Hadaway and Nicky Fellows, both aged nine, died in the town's Wild Park, near their homes on the Moulsecoomb Estate. Two sycamore trees were planted either side of the bench.

Darren Hadaway, aged 12, and Jonathan Fellows, aged 15, brothers of the dead girls, unveiled the bench, which bears a plaque in memory of the playmates.

Karen's mother, Michelle, who is expecting a baby early next year wept constantly as she stood by the bench with her husband Lee. Next to them stood Mr Barrie Fellows, father of Nicky, who consoled his wife, Susan.

Father Marcus Ronchetti said the memorial was a result of the goodwill that had flowed from the tragedy.

A local man, aged 20, has been charged with the murders of the girls.

report said that in the past there had been little Protestant unemployment in most parts of the province, and that Protestants had little difficulty in obtaining work.

But as companies took action to ensure equality of opportunity, unemployment began to climb and members of the Protestant community began to believe that the reason they faced problems in finding work was because Catholics were getting the jobs.

The report said that it was apparent, from the anxiety created in certain areas by the employment of Catholics, how under-represented they had been.

The agency criticized the attitude of some management which, it said, remained somewhat hostile to what it believed was interference from a statutory body. But there was a growing awareness of the need to put real meaning into commitments to promote equal job opportunities.

The agency, which has been in existence for 10 years, said there was a greater acceptance of the need for a professional approach to the problem of equal opportunity.

Critics who wanted more dramatic change would find that the long-term results of the agency's work would be a better measure of its effectiveness in promoting equal opportunity in a deeply divided country.

Sogat poll result is delayed

By Tim Jones

Leaders of Sogat '82, whose members are involved in a dispute with News International, will not know until after Christmas whether their 205,000 members have voted for a 58p weekly levy to save their union from bankruptcy.

Miss Brenda Dean, general secretary, and members of her national executive committee, decided to ballot the members on the 26-week levy rather than exercise their right, outlined in the rule book, to impose it.

The result should have been known tomorrow but officials at the union's headquarters in Bonfield, Essex, say that a delay has been caused because of the pre-Christmas post and the holiday period.

Miss Dean and the rest of her executive are disappointed that the majority of Sogat members in the provinces are disobeying union instructions and distributing *The Times* and other national newspapers published by News International.

The levy ballot is being seen as a vote of confidence in the leadership and its attitude towards the dispute.

Miss Dean and her beleaguered national executive are only too aware of the contempt which many Sogat members in the provinces have for their colleagues in London.

Miss Dean has said that the union nationally is faced with a bill of more than £1.5 million due to sequestration and other legal costs and something like £1 million in benefit paid out during the Wapping dispute which began when 5,100 print workers went on strike and were dismissed.

In addition, according to Miss Dean, Sogat could face damages being claimed against it in the courts by News International of a minimum of £1.5 million and possibly £2.75 million.

Hindley asked for second day on the moors

By Ian Smith, Northern Correspondent

Myra Hindley twice pleaded with a Home Office official to be allowed a second day on the Yorkshire moors to help guide police to the site of other unmarked graves, her solicitor said yesterday.

But, Mr Michael Fisher said, the Home Office official insisted she be returned to Cookham Wood Prison, Rochester, Kent, that evening, as agreed earlier.

Mr Fisher walked alongside Hindley across Saddleworth Moor, Greater Manchester, during her seven-hour visit. He said she thought she had been able to help searchers.

Mr Fisher said she believed that given extra time she could have provided the police with at least twice as much information.

Det Chief Supt Peter Topping, who is leading the hunt, said he would like more time with Hindley.

BR accused of secrecy in line closure plans

British Rail responded yesterday to accusations of secrecy by refusing to publish its financial case for closing the 72-mile Settle to Carlisle line.

An announcement that the BR board had sent a secret financial appraisal to Mr John Moore, Secretary of State for Transport, received immediate condemnation at a press conference in Settle, North Yorkshire, to mark the publication of the rail watchdogs' inquiry into the closure plan.

The joint findings of the Transport Users' Consultative Committees for north-east and north-west England were announced by Mr James Towler, chairman of the north-east consultative committee.

He accused BR of being "economical with the truth" in its "disgraceful" rundown of the line, which is described in its own promotional material as "England's greatest historic scenic route."

A copy of the 450-page

report has been sent to Mr Moore, who is expected to announce a decision on the line's future in the spring, bringing to an end the longest running, most hotly contested closure procedure.

Mr Towler, whose committee received nearly 15,000 of the 22,000 objections lodged, said BR had shown "lack of candour" by denying for two years after doubts surfaced in 1981 that it had any plans to close the line.

His report is deeply critical of BR's refusal to provide the committees with financial data to back its case.

The consultative committees' report also accuses BR of being out of step with government policy to promote tourism and leisure and ignoring extra demand for rail travel to Scotland expected to be generated by the Channel tunnel.

The report details a steady rise in traffic on the line during the past three years.

Victory for Speelman in chess final

Bernard Speelman yesterday won the British Chess Championship for the second year in succession, beating Murray Chandler with precise endplay in the second of two tie-break games.

The first of the games in which each of the grandmasters had 30 minutes to play ended in a draw.

In the second Speelman exerted strong pressure on the centre with a bishop on the long diagonal and his queen. Exchanges in the centre resulted in Chandler being saddled with an isolated pawn

Report: The Times reported that the union nationally is faced with a bill of more than £1.5 million due to sequestration and other legal costs and something like £1 million in benefit paid out during the Wapping dispute which began when 5,100 print workers went on strike and were dismissed.

In addition, according to Miss Dean, Sogat could face damages being claimed against it in the courts by News International of a minimum of £1.5 million and possibly £2.75 million.

Catholic job bias in Ulster denied

By Richard Ford

Fair Employment Commission in Northern Ireland has rejected allegations of discrimination in favour of Catholics in the public sector. The report, which was published yesterday, said that there was no evidence of bias against Protestants in the public sector. The Commission found that the public sector was not a "closed shop" for Catholics and that there was no evidence of bias against Protestants in the public sector. The Commission found that the public sector was not a "closed shop" for Catholics and that there was no evidence of bias against Protestants in the public sector.

Most nurses 'unable to deal with heart arrest'

By Jill Sherman

Most trained nurses would be unable to give basic first aid to a heart attack victim in the vital first few minutes, according to a team of researchers from a London hospital. They claim that patients' lives could be unnecessarily at risk as nurses are often the only staff present when a cardiac arrest occurs. Saving the life of someone who has had a heart attack can depend on simple resuscitation techniques, such as mouth to mouth, in the first four minutes before the high technology "crash" team of doctors arrive. But a study undertaken at the Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead, north-west London, showed that none of the nurses performed basic life support adequately, according to national standards, and more than half were completely ineffective. Details of the study to be presented today at the British Psychological Society's conference also show that most of the nurses overestimated their skills. The more senior nurses and those who had dealt with more arrests were more confident about their ability but performed no better than junior nurses. The researchers, clinical psychologists Dr Teresa Marteau and Dr Marie Johnston, have called for obligatory regular retraining for all nurses once they qualify. "The first four minutes after a cardiac arrest are vital," Dr Marteau said. "If you have an arrest in hospital a nurse is the first on the scene. Unless we have effective nurses it puts into question the overall use of resources of the crash team."

Any skills that nurses had learnt during training had evidently since deteriorated, she said.

Dr Marteau said she was concerned that nurses who were confident that they could perform resuscitation would be the least likely to seek training.

"It is these people who we found were least expert at the technique," she said.

The Royal College of Nursing yesterday emphasised that all nurses were given eight hours of basic resuscitation training by a cardiologist or specialist nurse.

"Pretty stringent training is applied so that all nurses when they finish training should be able to resuscitate a cardiac arrest patient," Miss Frances Pickersgill, the college's assistant adviser in nursing practice, said.

But she admitted that the training might not be effective when it came to coping with a heart attack for the first time.

"When faced with your first cardiac patient you're not sure whether they have fainted or whether they are dead. The brain goes into reverse gear. It is a very emotive situation and our training may not be sophisticated enough to cope with it."

Miss Pickersgill said she was not really surprised by the findings, but added that previous surveys had shown that junior doctors were also bad at these basic skills.

"I agree that there should be obligatory training for post-qualified nursing staff but I think this should also apply to all staff including doctors, porters and cleaners."

Girl can stay with her father

A girl aged 12 yesterday won the right to continue living with her father.

In October, a judge ordered that the girl, whose parents are divorced, should live with her mother, although she had pleaded to remain with her father, whom the judge described as "insensitive".

But after hearing of the girl's repeated pleas to remain with her father, two judges at the Court of Appeal in London ruled that she need not go to live with her mother after all. They imposed a three-month ban on the mother seeing her, as a "cooling off" period.

Lord Justice May, sitting with Mr Justice Lincoln, said the girl's father was "implyly opposed" to the idea.

Allowing an appeal by the girl's father against the ruling, and awarding custody, care and control of the girl to the father, the judge said the county court judge had failed to take into account the strength of the girl's feelings.

The judge urged the parents, who were in court, to "stop the battle" they were engaged in. "They must do all they can to help the children and to work gradually to build up the very necessary bridges within the family."

Killer gets two life sentences

A man who killed the woman with whom he was living and her social worker because he was afraid he was going to lose his children was given two life sentences at Birmingham Crown Court yesterday.

Brian Wildman, aged 38, of Woodgate Valley, Birmingham, who admitted murdering Miss Julie Harrison, with whom he was living, and Miss Frances Bettridge, a social worker, was told by Mr Justice Henry: "You took two innocent lives with these terrible crimes."

Wildman had separated from Miss Harrison, aged 30, earlier this year and under care proceedings she was prevented from staying with him with their daughter, aged 12. But when she spent weekends with Wildman, Miss Bettridge, decided to speak to them about it.

When Miss Harrison arrived for the meeting Wildman threw a belt around her neck and tried to strangle her. She broke free but was prevented from escaping by Wildman who stabbed her and then strangled her before he drowned her in the bath.

When Miss Bettridge, aged 27, arrived Wildman said his wife was not there. He stabbed her and strangled her. His plans to kill himself and his family by burning the house down failed when he heard the screams of his twin sons, aged five.

Coroner throws doubt on smear test policy

A coroner has criticized "an extraordinary state of affairs" in which women under the age of 35 are not given cervical smear tests because general practitioners do not receive payment.

The National Health Service is reviewing its policy, but believes women younger than 35 are at less risk of contracting cervical cancer.

Dr Paul Kuapman, the Westminster coroner, said at a resumed inquest yesterday that he had "grave doubts" whether that was so.

He recorded a verdict of misadventure on Miss Jane McKenna, aged 31, a knitwear designer, of Vauxhall Hill, Greenwich, south-east London, who died from kidney failure on November 6 after an accidental toxic drug overdose was given at the Royal Marsden Hospital, Chelsea. Miss McKenna had a cervical smear test at Lewisham hospital on October 6, 1982, which was negative. Terminal cancer was diagnosed eight months after a hysterectomy in February 1986.

Plea to sell Ripper's house

A judge at Bradford County Court was asked yesterday to order the sale of the former Bradford home of Peter Sutcliffe, known as the Yorkshire Ripper.

The application on behalf of Mr Roy Garthwaite, the trustee in Sutcliffe's bankruptcy, has been made so that part of the proceeds can be used to pay compensation of £25,722 awarded to two surviving victims and the mother of a girl aged 16 killed by him.

Mrs Marilyn Moore was awarded £10,500 damages. Mrs Maureen Long £8,500

and Mrs Irene MacDonald, the mother of Jayne MacDonald, £6,722. So far they have received nothing.

Sutcliffe's share in the detached house in Garden Lane, Heaton, was transferred to his wife, Sonia, when she was legally separated from him. She still lives there.

But Mr Garthwaite said that no one representing the creditors of Sutcliffe was present in court when Mrs Sutcliffe successfully applied in May 1983 for an order for the transfer of her husband's interest in the property to her. The effect of the order was

to remove the only asset available to his creditors.

Mr Garthwaite submitted that Sutcliffe was bankrupt from February 1983 and that the judge who made the order for the transfer did not have jurisdiction.

In an affidavit read to the court, Mrs Sutcliffe denied that she had acted improperly in seeking to have her husband's interest in the house transferred to her. She claimed that she had contributed three times as much as her husband towards the purchase of the house.

The case continues today.

Christmas 'misery for low paid'

By Jill Sherman

Christmas for low income families is a nightmare rather than a celebration and results in big debts, the Child Poverty Action Group says today.

Traditional turkey and Christmas pudding are an unaffordable luxury for many families, who sit down to sausage and chips instead.

The average household will spend £375 on Christmas this year, the group says. This will include £100 on presents for each child aged between 8-14, but low income families will have to spend an entire week's social security benefit to buy one of this year's most popular toys - a £60 talking teddy.

"Families can only meet the cost of Christmas by going into or getting further into debt," the report says.

The charity recommends a special Christmas bonus for families living on social security and raising the supplementary benefit scales for children and increasing child benefit.

The group also claims that television advertising for the latest toys in the weeks before Christmas puts added pressure on parents. It says that this type of advertising should be investigated and, if necessary, regulated.

Alleged petrol bomber in photographs

Photographs taken by a press photographer during last year's riots in Birmingham led to the identification of an alleged petrol bomber, a court was told yesterday.

Mr Anthony Barker, QC, for the prosecution, said that James Hazell, aged 31, had also been seen in the riot area by police officers who knew him shortly before the photographs were taken.

He told Birmingham Crown Court that a photograph of a man holding a bottle containing a liquid, with a fuse already lit, appeared on the front page of many national newspapers the next day.

Moments later the petrol bomb was thrown into a building supplies shop, causing a serious fire which resulted in £20,000 in damage.

Mr Barker said it was the crown's case that Mr Hazell, of Merryhill Drive, Winslow Green, Birmingham, who has denied arson, was the petrol bomber in the photograph.

He said the incident occurred shortly after a visit to the area by Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, after serious rioting and looting in which two people were killed. The case continues today.

Higgins case adjourned

A case involving Alex Higgins, the former world champion snooker player, was opened and adjourned until January 16 at Preston Magistrates' Court, Lancashire, yesterday.

Mr Higgins, aged 37, of Mottram St Andrew, near Preston, Cheshire, who did not appear in court, is charged with assaulting Mr Paul Hatherall at Preston on November 24, and damaging a door.

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The case continues today.



Couple in US deaths hunt jailed for fraud

An American heiress and her boy friend, accused of murdering her parents in a black magic ritual, were jailed yesterday for 12 months each after admitting fraud offences. Elizabeth Hayson, aged 23, and Jens Soering, aged 20, son of a West German diplomat, admitted opening bank accounts in false names to obtain illegally more than £6,500.

Scotland Yard extradition squad detectives were at Kingston Crown Court, Surrey, with a warrant for the couple's arrest, accusing them of the murder of Hayson's parents.

The bodies of Mr Derek Hayson, aged 71, a steel magnate, and Mrs Nancy Hayson, aged 53, were found with multiple stab wounds in their home in Lynchburg, Virginia, in March last year.

Soering and Hayson, who were students at Virginia University, have been indicted by a United States grand jury on charges of first degree murder. Soering is also accused of capital murder, the killing of more than one person. If found guilty, he could face the death penalty.

The couple were jailed after admitting two charges of obtaining a pecuniary advantage by deception between January 9 and April 30 this year, and one charge of going equipped to cheat.

Mr Michael Lawson, for the prosecution, said the couple had opened bank accounts in Bath and Canterbury on their arrival in Britain, using forged identification cards and passports made from false documents bought in Thailand.

In bed and breakfast accommodation rented by the couple in Paddington, west London, detectives found 10 sets of Canadian identification cards and driving licences, rubber stamps, wigs and moustaches.

Mr Nicholas Valios, counsel for the defence, said the couple came to Britain, where banks are vulnerable to fraud, after failing to get work in Europe or Thailand.

Judge Oddie ordered that £2,250 in cash found on the pair be paid in compensation to the Lloyds and Midland banks involved, and Marks & Spencer.

Hayson and Soering, who have been in custody for seven and a half months, will be re-arrested on their release to face extradition proceedings at Bow Street Magistrates' Court, London.

Women face quiz over sex

By Thomson Press, Science Correspondent

The sexual behaviour of more than 1,000 young women is to be studied to provide clues for better public education about Aids.

The Department of Health has been asked to fund the study and is considering the proposals put forward by a research team.

The researchers believe that women hold the key to influencing men's attitudes about limiting the spread of the disease.

The women involved in the planned study would be recruited in London at family planning centres, through general practitioners, and at clinics for the treatment of sexually transmitted diseases.

They would be asked about their sex lives, the number of

partners they have had, and their attitudes towards the use of condoms.

Dr John Green, head of the psychology department at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, west London, which has the largest number of Aids cases of any hospital in Britain, will lead the study.

"We know very little about heterosexual behaviour in this country. We want to learn more about sexually active women because that information will help us shape future Aids education projects."

Dr Green, who is also director of the Aids Counselling Training Unit, set up by the DHSS, said: "We want to discover how much condoms are used and to examine the ability of women to influence

men to use this form of contraception."

Most people who know they are carrying the Aids virus, as well as those who have developed the disease, are giving up sexual relations for fear of passing it on, according to other research published today.

The findings, by Miss Heather George, a senior clinical psychologist at St Mary's, are being reported to a British Psychological Society conference in London.

She interviewed 150 people, including about 50 homosexual men who are infected, 50 who have developed the disease and 50 who have not been tested for infection but are close to someone with symptoms.

Children to be warned of dangers

Schoolchildren are to be taught in the classroom about the risks of Aids, in a project launched in London yesterday. Health education workers will explain how the disease is transmitted.

The three-year programme is being funded with a £96,000 from the North-west Thames Regional Health Authority. Dr Tony Fincham, consultant clinical immunologist at

St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, who announced the project, said: "It is especially important to educate the next generation before they establish patterns of sexual behaviour or are tempted to experiment with drugs."

"Audiences of children are among the most receptive and may well be able to 'help educate their parents'."

Dr Fincham, who already

speaks to school classes, said schools were given the chance to let parents withdraw children from the talks, but this had not happened.

The project is being led by Mr Martin Weaver, who previously worked with the Terence Higgins Trust, the leading Aids charity, and Mrs Alison Wren, a microbiologist and teacher who has specialized in sex education.

WOOLWICH 1986

ASSETS UP 15.3% TO £7,827m	HOME LOANS UP 22% TO £1,829m <small>lent to over 62,000 families</small>	NET RECEIPTS FROM INVESTORS £591m	APPROVAL GIVEN TO PROVIDE NEW SERVICES
SERVICE	SERVICE	SERVICE	SERVICE

Facing the future with confidence

Points made by the Chairman, Mr Alan McIntock, C.A., in his address to the 139th Annual General Meeting held on 16th December 1986.

Results. 1986 was yet another year in which the Society broke new ground in terms of the volume of its business. This was a considerable achievement in the context of the ever-increasing competition in the marketplace and the additional pressures imposed by the need to prepare for new legislation.

Assets increased during the year by £1,036 million to £7,827 million. At the year end the Society had 2.76 million investment accounts and 363,000 borrowers. Lending increased by 22% helping more than 62,000 families to buy their own homes.

Increase in Reserves. At the end of the year the Society's surplus was £65.5 million, taking the general reserve to £319.4 million, equivalent to 4.08% of total assets, the highest ratio recorded by the Woolwich in the last quarter century. This is the most reassuring of the figures, not only because of our prime objective of enhancing the Society's financial strength and security, but also because of the need for a higher capital base on which to build new services for the future.

Building Societies Act 1986. The Chairman welcomed the Building Societies Act and the opportunities it affords for societies to compete more effectively. He said that the Society did not propose to use all the available powers immediately, but pointed out that it now had the ability and the flexibility to respond to the demands of customers and the marketplace. He reassured members that no new powers would change the face of the Woolwich irrevocably. The greater part of the business would continue to be concentrated in the traditional saving and mortgage lending services, that had been provided so successfully for so long.

The Future - The Chairman concluded: "These are, indeed, changing and challenging times. However, at the Woolwich we look forward to the new era with the greatest confidence in the Society's financial and business strength, and with a determination to distinguish the Woolwich from other institutions by the excellence of the services we offer."

The Special Resolution proposing the adoption of new powers under the Building Societies Act 1986 was carried by an overwhelming majority.

Copies of the Annual Report and the full text of the Chairman's Address are available from the Secretary, Equitable House, London SE18 6AB.

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WOOLWICH
EQUITABLE BUILDING SOCIETY

December 17 1986

PARLIAMENT

Farm ministers 'have taken an historic step'

The agreement reached yesterday in Brussels by the EEC Council of Agriculture ministers of the EEC, after 90 hours of negotiations, would result in reduction of production of milk by 9.5 per cent, Mr John Gummer, Minister of State, Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said in a statement to the Commons.

Changes were also to be made to prevent excessive recourse to intervention, which had been noticeable in the Community particularly over the past year. On beef, the council had agreed big reforms in the intervention system, designed to reduce both the cost and the volume of intervention buying.

The council had agreed to the British request to devalue in its green pound of six points for beef and 3.3 points for sheep. Those changes, which would take effect on January 5, would result in support prices in those two sectors being increased by about 3 per cent and 1.5 per cent respectively.

"This will be worth an additional £50 million to farmers in a full year. The devaluation will also help towards restoring our meat traders' position relative to Ireland."

One important aim of the arrangements would be to help to tackle the surplus problem. Member states would be required to offer aid for the conversion to non-surplus output and also operate an early retirement scheme for farmers who wanted to abandon production.

The changes, particularly in the milk sector, would cause serious problems of adjustment for many individual farmers but they would be sizeably compensated. But the package agreed fitted in well with the best interests of the UK industry.

"The Agriculture Council has taken an historic step forward in tackling the problems of surpluses which will bring substantial savings to the Community budget."

"Twelve nations have together found the way forward in agriculture despite differences so big that once they could have caused wars."

Mr Brynmor Jones, Opposition spokesman on agriculture, said Mr Gummer had taken a historic step which, if it worked, would take a sizeable step in reducing surpluses in the dairy sector.

It was important not to overstate what had been achieved. Even if it did come to a dairy problem, the most notorious of a number of surplus regimes, there was no mention in the agreement of cereals.

The impetus must not be lost and agriculture ministers must not let events back them against the wall before they acted on the common agricultural policy. The House should insist that the CAP was thoroughly reformed if all spheres.

Mr Gummer said other dairy producers in the world should reduce their production similarly. It was not fair to ask British and other European farmers to reduce their production if other countries did not do the same.

Sir Richard Bedy (Holland with Boston, C) asked how many dairy farmers might go out of business as a result of the agreement.

Mr Gummer said that was difficult to estimate. When quotas came into operation, it was thought that dairy farmers would have to go out of business. That turned out not to be the case. "I do not believe that these changes will mean dairy farmers will have to go out of business."

Those who wished to would be given an opportunity to do so and those who did not wish to would be compensated.

Mr Richard Lacey (Breckon and Radnor, L) asked what effect the settlement would have on the

income of the average size dairy farm in the UK.

Mr Gummer said there was no doubt that the compensation for the cut in quota was such that it would replace the profit which would otherwise have come from producing that milk.

Dr Roger Thomas (Carmarthen, Lab) asked what plans there



Mr Gummer: Dairy farm 'adjustments'.

were to help former dairy farmers in the next 40 years.

Mr Gummer: I do not believe there will be all these ex-dairy farmers. The arrangements mean that those people who have to reduce their quotas will be very properly compensated for that reduction.

Mr John Taylor (Strangford, OUP) said the net result of the



Mrs Dunwoody: Pledges for creamery workers.

ministers' settlement would be terrifying for farmers throughout the UK and would result in reduction of farming, more penalties and more unemployment in rural areas.

Mr Gummer said that he had got it totally wrong.

Mrs Dorothy Dunwoody (Crews and Nanwich, Lab) asked



Mr Bates: Cutting dairy production.

how the minister could convince the creamery workers losing their jobs in January that this was a good package.

Mr Gummer said it may be necessary to reduce the number of creameries. There were arrangements made for those workers which were more generous than those provided by the national scheme.

Mr David Wigley (Caernarfon, P C) said that Britain imported a lot of dairy products and dairy farmers in west Wales could not understand why Mr Gummer had sold them down the river.

Mr Gummer said that Britain imported Danish and New Zealand butter because British housewives wanted to buy it. They should have that right. He hoped that Mr Wigley was not suggesting otherwise and that housewives should be forced to buy Welsh butter, though it was always good.

Mr James Lamond (Oldham Central and Royton, Lab) said there had been little mention of the consumer today. With a surplus of dairy products, could consumers look forward to an early cut in milk prices instead of continual increases? Or had the law of supply and demand been repealed in favour of the farming industry?

Mr Gummer said that he wanted to make sure farmers got a reasonable living, but the Government had always fought for consumer interests. The best premium helped them, for instance.

Mr David Penhaligon (Truro, L) asked whether the minister had explained to the Community that the height of his ambition was that Britain should not dairy production by the same percentage as those member states in phenomenal surplus.

Mr Gummer replied that Britain was taking the same burden as other states. Last year Britain put into intervention 98,000 tonnes of butter but imported much less than that. It was impossible to ask the rest of the Community to suffer a bigger burden when Britain was imposing the cost of that 98,000 tonnes on them.

Mr Nicholas Bates (Wolverhampton South West, C) said that he had strongly opposed and deplored the way this Government had treated dairy farmers when they did not contribute year in and year out to the surplus in Europe in liquid milk, dairy products.

He challenged the minister's estimate of butter imports and said that Britain imported 135,000 tonnes of dairy products so she was a net importer.

Mr Gummer said it was not the Government which had imposed these products but the housewife who had chosen to buy them. Every farmer would get compensation for the compulsory cut, more than they could have expected to get in profits.

Mr Tony Banks (Newham North East, Lab) said that as vigorous steps were to be taken to reduce the intervention store, now was the time, particularly with Christmas coming up, for the food in the beef and butter stores to be given free to pensioners.

Mr Gummer said some of the butter had been in intervention for a long time and Mr Banks would not want that distributed to pensioners. Also, those who usually bought butter would not buy it if it was given away. So that butter itself would then go into intervention.

Mr Nicholas Bates (Wolverhampton South West, C) asked the minister to be generous with the truth in describing a reduction in the cost of the CAP. He hoped there would be no need for any increase in contributions from value-added tax or for a supplementary budget for the EEC.

Mr Gummer said he had given the exact figures, but the changes in dairying would mean a reduction in the budget of £1,200 million in the next three years. In beef the reduction would be £120 million.

"But we have not finished yet. The continuing effect of that will be even greater savings and the UK Government is determined now to turn to those other areas and reduce the cost of those, too."



Mr Conal Gregory, Tory MP for York, recommending shoppers in London yesterday to buy safe British toys and to boycott potentially dangerous imported ones (Photograph: Ros Drinkwater).

British leadership of EEC 'great success'

The most effective pattern of decision during the British presidency of the EEC in the second half of 1986 had been the record of more decisions taken and adopted on the internal market than ever before, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said during exchanges after a statement about the past meeting of the EEC Foreign Affairs Council under his presidency.

There had also been more help than ever before for small businesses and an action programme on unemployment, he said. There had also been total co-operation on illegal immigration and crime.

The decisions on Tuesday on agricultural policy had gone further than anyone could have imagined, and one of the most fundamental reforms ever obtained had been obtained under the British presidency.

Sir Russell Johnston (Inverness, Nairn and Lochaber, L) asked whether the council had considered a common electoral system for the European Parliament, since the political committee of the Parliament had reached agreement.

"The existing system is clearly unfair to electors. Can we be assured that even though we did not get a change by 1984 we shall get one by 1989?"

Sir Geoffrey Howe: I am sorry to disappoint him, but no suggestion was made by any member of the council of that matter, so dear to his heart, to be considered.

Mr Anthony Lloyd (Stratford, Lab) said he could face both ways on the issue of trade with the United States, claiming great success in terms of lessons and sagacity while indulging in sabre-rattling about potential US action, given that six months ago he was very optimistic about trade talks and we now face the serious possibility of a trade war. So what went wrong under his presidency?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: Nothing in that respect. We started in the summer with three specific anxieties between the Community and the US. First, should we get the next GATT round going? The answer was yes, we did so as a result of Britain's successful leadership of the Community delegation.

Second, should we resolve the disputes about pasta, lemons and steel? The answer was yes, the disputes have been resolved satisfactorily and jobs in the steel industry were safeguarded.

Third, should we be able to end the dispute following the enlargement of the Community where the US was claiming the right to impose discrimination against us? That dispute has not yet been resolved but we decided it would be sensible to give it one

EEC AFFAIRS

Mr David Winnick (Walsall North, Lab) said that the question of police-state restrictions in South Africa was placed on the agenda? These latest restrictions demonstrate once again there is no solution in South Africa while the present authorities remain in office. It is all the more unfortunate that he is a party to appeasement over what is happening in South Africa.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: I do not accept his view. The matter of South Africa was discussed yesterday. The 12 are planning to make high-level representations in Pretoria on human rights generally and the UK Government has already taken action. We have made it plain that muzzling the press and locking up one's political opponents is not the answer.

Mr George Foulkes, for the Opposition, said that the six months of the UK presidency, which will go down as the pasta presidency, has been an abject failure?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: His point has no foundation whatsoever. This was a presidency of formidable achievement, and only Mr Foulkes fails to recognize it.

Mr Robert Atkins (South Ribblesdale, C) said cigarette companies had done an amazing job in supporting the great game of cricket.

Mr Tracey: It is quite right that tobacco sponsorship has made a contribution to cricket, although that contribution is now declining in the same way as it is across other sports.

Mr Robert Brown (Newcastle upon Tyne North, Lab) asked: Will he face the fact that having banned tobacco advertising on television, to allow sponsorship of major contests like snooker, which many young people watch, is a direct incentive to youngsters to start smoking?

Mr Tracey: This is one of the points we have taken into consideration during the negotiations leading to this voluntary agreement.

He added later that tobacco sponsorship of sport was amounted to just short of £10 million, whereas the all-in sponsorship of sport was at £150 million a year.

AGREEMENT ON TOBACCO IMMINENT

Mr Richard Tracey, Under-Secretary of State for the Environment, said during Commons questions that he was nearing the end of detailed negotiations with the tobacco industry on sport sponsorship leading to a new voluntary agreement. He hoped to make a statement early in the new year.

Mr John Carlisle (Luton North, C) said that sport had benefited enormously from the tobacco industry and urged Mr Tracey to remember in further negotiations that that money would not be easily replaced. He asked for a categorical assurance that the Government would not go down the road taken by the Labour Party whereby they had outlawed or would outlaw tobacco sponsorship in sport.

Mr Tracey: I have always believed that voluntary agreement is the right way.

Mr Clement Freud (North East Cambridgeshire, L) said an increasing number of young children were smoking. It was essential to remove the glamour element of tobacco sponsorship of sport.

Mr Tracey: This is one of the points we have considered very carefully in our negotiations with the tobacco companies. Since the voluntary system was first adopted in 1972, 36 per cent of men and 32 per cent of women are smokers compared with 52 per cent and 41 per cent in 1972, and the improvement continues.

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He added later that tobacco sponsorship of sport was amounted to just short of £10 million, whereas the all-in sponsorship of sport was at £150 million a year.

Million tenant owners

In the financial years 1983-84 to 1985-86, respectively, 117,000, 89,000 and 80,000 tenants bought their council homes, Mr John Patten, Minister for Housing, Urban Affairs and Construction, said in a reply to a Commons question.

The figure for the entire country since 1979 had passed one million and this year right-to-buy applications were running at the highest rate since they reached their peak in 1982-83.

Mr David Knox (Staffordshire, Moorlands, C) What percentage of total council-house stock was sold to sitting tenants?

Mr Patten: There are four and a half million council tenants still living in council flats and houses. Of those, we estimate that approximately half a million, and perhaps 600,000, still have the resources to buy.

Irish Dail request 'is misconceived'

SELLFIELD

The Dail resolution calling for the closure of the Sellfield nuclear reprocessing plant was misconceived, Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, said during Commons questions. He said most radioactivity in the Irish Sea was natural radioactivity.

Mr Ridley spoke of the improvements at the plant since 1979 and of the multi-million pound capital programme by British Nuclear Fuels, which had already reduced discharges to the environment to one sixth of the level in 1979. Further reductions should be achievable in the 1990s.

Mr Gerald Howells (Cardigan and Pembroke North, L) sought the minister's views on what he said was the Irish

Government's call to close Sellfield because of the threat to environment and the life of the fishing industry.

Mr Ridley told him that the call had come from the Dail and that was not the Government in Ireland.

About 99.8 per cent of radioactivity in the Irish Sea was natural. Most of the remaining 0.2 per cent came from fallout from nuclear weapons tests.

Mr John Taylor (Strangford, OUP) asked if the minister would approve any further nuclear plants discharging nuclear waste into the Irish Sea.

Mr Ridley said an expert committee commissioned by the Irish health department recently published a report which showed that Sellfield had had no observable impact on the incidence of childhood leukaemia along the Irish east coast since 1977.

CITY TIN CRISIS

Secrecy 'put jobs in peril'

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Excessive government secrecy over last year's tin crisis had jeopardized "enormous investment, the reputation of a major City institution and the Bank of England, and the jobs of thousands of Cornish people", a Tory-controlled select committee said yesterday.

As predicted in *The Times*, the final report on the crisis by the trade and industry committee censures both the government and the Bank of England for their failure to warn the London Metal Exchange (LME) or the dealers' creditor banks or the tin miners of what was hanging over them.

"Vague warnings" were given to the dealers by the Bank of England, and the LME should have taken more notice of those, the report says.

But the LME, which had a long-standing relationship with the Bank, clearly expected unambiguous warnings. The Bank, which was acting as confidential adviser to the Government, should have told the LME that that relationship precluded its giving such warnings.

The Bank is also censured for failing to tell the creditor banks of what was likely to happen. "This would have affected the lending policies of

both the banks. They are owed £340 million.

The Government, specifically the Department of Trade and Industry, is criticized on several counts.

Its suggestion that the LME should have known what was going on because it had "representatives" at the International Tin Council was highly misleading because those "representatives" were in fact advisers who were bound by the tin council's confidentiality rules.

Its excuse that it did not warn the Cornish miners because there was nothing they could have done is dismissed as "factually incorrect". There was action the mines could have taken.

It had also been wrong to sign an inherently flawed Sixth International Tin Agreement partly to avoid worsening relations with tin-producing countries such as Malaysia. "It was wrong to allow doubtful considerations of international relations to outweigh common sense when the decision was taken to join the Sixth ITA."

Launching the report, Mr Kenneth Warren, the committee chairman, said that he believed the Government had been "obsessed by secrecy to the detriment of good government".

In a situation such as that,

both the Bank and the LME had a duty to act.

Surprisingly, however, the committee concedes the right of the Bank and the Government to withhold from select committees papers passing between departments and their confidential advisers. Twice during its inquiry the committee had demanded details of documents shown by the Government to the Bank and on both occasions, the Bank had effectively declined. A trial of strength had been expected.

Trade and Industry Committee: *The Tin Crisis: Supplementary Report* (Stationery Office: £5.50).

After seven days of legal argument, judgement was reserved in the High Court yesterday in the application by the International Tin Council, said by counsel to be "hopelessly insolvent", to strike out a petition for its compulsory winding-up.

Mr Justice Millett is expected to give judgement during the next term which begins on January 12. Amalgamated Metal Trading, which has an arbitration award in its favour for £5.3 million, and the merchant bankers Kleinwort Benson, which claims to be a creditor for £7 million, are opposing the Council's application.

Decision on illegal rates defended

Mr Rhodes Boyson, Minister for Local Government, fended off criticism during Commons questions of the statement made yesterday by Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, which revealed that the rate-support grant system had been operated unlawfully in recent years.

Mr Allan Roberts (Bootle, Lab) asked for an admission that the Secretary of State had actually been breaking the law since 1980 because of political interference with the drafting of legislation, urged on by Tory local authority associations.

He said that that had enabled Tory authorities to put up rents and to make profits on the housing revenue account that could be deducted from their total expenditure in order to get them extra grant. That was a scandal.

Mr Boyson said the simple answer was no. The 1980 Act, which would be amended shortly, was brought in at the request of local authorities. Labour as well as Conservatives.

It just showed the danger of what happened when a government was over-reasonable in dealing with people.

Mr Simon Hughes (Southwark and Bermondsey, L) asked, in the light of the farcical statement on local government finance yesterday, how the rate-capped authorities were going to be dealt with.

Could there be a guarantee that each such authority would be looked at separately and given proper attention?

Mr Boyson said that the statement would have been farcical only if there had been a government which did not publish the information it received. The rate-capped authorities would know their limit of expenditure. It would be in the Bill.

Mr John Taylor (Solihull, C) said the rating environment would be considerably improved if the local authorities would confine themselves to their statutory responsibilities and desist from social engineering.

Mr John Watts (Slough, C) said that as it had proved necessary to find legislative time to block a few loopholes in the Act, it might make sense to make use of that time to scrap the existing unsatisfactory and unfair system and introduce a fairer one such as that set out in the Government's Green Paper.

Mr Boyson said they would have to wait a little longer. That legislation was promised at the latest in the first session of the next Parliament.

Dr John Cunningham, Opposition spokesman on the environment, said Mr Ridley had been forced to admit that he knew of the fiasco in October. So why had he gone through the charade of issuing two more consultative documents on rate-support grant without being candid with the House and with local authorities on the desperate situation he found himself in?

Mr Boyson said that Mr Ridley had made clear yesterday that at the end of October, when he received the information, had he come to the House and said: "We have a problem and do not know what to do about it", Labour would have been the first to object. Mr Ridley had to take legal advice. He had been misled once by taking the advice of the local associations.

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Alliance manifesto

Nuclear defence policy issue settled

By Nicholas Wood, Political Reporter

The Alliance parties yesterday formally completed the agonizing business of burying their differences over nuclear weapons by releasing the text of the statement that will form the core of their defence policy at the next election.

It says: "In government we would maintain with whatever necessary modernization our minimum nuclear deterrent until it can be negotiated away, as part of the global arms negotiation process, in return for worthwhile concessions by the USSR which would enhance British and European security. This is in contrast to Labour's 'give it away' strategy."

"In any such modernization we would maintain our capability in the sense of freezing our capacity at a level no greater than that of the Polaris system. This is in contrast to the Tories' intent greedily to increase the nuclear deterrent."

"We would assign our minimum deterrent to Nato and seek every opportunity to improve European co-operation on procurement and strategic questions."

The Alliance also pledged itself to cancel Trident because of its "excessive cost of warheads, high cost and continued dependence on United States technology". Expected savings, contested



Dr Owen (left) and Mr Steel.

by the Government, would be transferred to the conventional defence budget.

The statement, which forms part of the final version of *Partnership for Progress*, the basis of the Alliance's coming manifesto, was agreed by the joint policy committee of the two parties on Tuesday night. It does not specify the successor to Polaris.

It says it would be rash of

Decision on illegal rates defended

Mr Rhodes, Minister for the Environment, defended the decision to increase rates for illegal buildings. He said the decision was necessary to encourage owners to bring their buildings up to standard. He added that the decision was based on a survey of illegal buildings in London. He said that the survey showed that there were a large number of illegal buildings in London. He said that the decision to increase rates for these buildings was necessary to encourage owners to bring them up to standard. He added that the decision was based on a survey of illegal buildings in London. He said that the survey showed that there were a large number of illegal buildings in London. He said that the decision to increase rates for these buildings was necessary to encourage owners to bring them up to standard.

Illegal drinking by teenagers may lead to new crackdown

By Richard Evans, Political Correspondent

The Government is considering a new crackdown against under age drinking after a nationwide survey disclosed yesterday that 40 per cent of those aged 16 were drinking illegally in public houses.

With only one in 10 youngsters remaining teetotal by the age of 17, education chiefs are also being asked if children should be given extra advice at school about the dangers of drink.

The Adolescent Drinking Survey, conducted among nearly 5,000 youngsters aged 13 to 17, shows that 82 per cent of boys and 77 per cent of girls in England and Wales had their first "proper drink" by the age of 13. Of those who could remember, a quarter of boys said they had their first alcoholic drink before the age of nine. Scottish children start later, but catch up by the age of 15.

Most adolescents started drinking at home, but a quarter of those aged 14, rising to 40 per cent of those aged 16, admitted drinking illegally in public houses.

The inquiry was commissioned by the Department of Health and Social Security and two separate surveys were carried out, in England and Wales and in Scotland, to provide a national picture of young people's drinking habits.

In England and Wales, 29 per cent of 13-year-old boys and 11 per cent of girls said they drank at least weekly.

Weekly drinking rose to 52 per cent of the boys and 37 per cent of the girls among 15-year-olds, and to 61 per cent of boys and 54 per cent of girls among 17-year-olds. Nine per cent of boys said they drank almost every day, the report says.

About one third of boys and up to a quarter of girls aged 13 said they had been "very drunk" at least once in the previous year. Drunkenness had affected more than half the older boys.

A quarter of those involved in such heavy drinking reported having got into arguments or fights as a result, or having upset their parents.

One in 10 of the boys committed acts of vandalism or attracted the attention of the police after drinking too much.

Half of the youngest children interviewed drank less than four standard alcohol units a week, one unit being equivalent to half a pint of beer, a glass of wine or a single measure of spirits.

Half of the boys aged 15 who drank at all consumed more than the equivalent of five pints of beer a week. One in six consumed about two pints a day.

Mrs Edwina Currie, Under Secretary of State at the Department of Health and Social Security, said her colleagues at the Department of Education and the Home Office would "consider whether any action on alcohol education in schools and on enforcement of the licensing laws is necessary in the light of this report".

She added: "We recognize that alcohol used wisely and within the law is not harmful but there is a need to safeguard our young people against the dangers of alcohol misuse".

Adolescent Drinking (Stationary Office, £6.80).

Young forced into part-time labour

By Jill Sherman

Teenagers have become the day labourers and casual workers of the 1980s, the youth employment organization, Youthaid, says today.

A survey published by the charity disputes government claims that the dramatic rise in part-time work is helping women who want more flexible working hours.

"Most of the new part-time workers are teenagers unable to get full-time work," the report says.

The survey shows that there has been a 250 per cent increase since 1979 in the number of teenagers in part-time work, from 116,000 to 407,000, compared with a 2.5 per cent increase in part-time adult women workers.

The number of teenagers in full-time work had fallen from 1.8 million to 1.2 million during the same period. By 1985, one in four teenagers could find only a part-time job, and six out of every 10 part-time workers was under the age of 20.

Nearly half the teenagers in part-time work have jobs that are temporary.

"When politicians talk about flexible labour markets, they are really talking about unemployed teenagers having to take part-time, short term, unprotected work," Mr Paul Lewis, director of Youthaid, said.

Part-time work had not grown significantly for adult women, "but among teenagers it has grown enormously, and it is contributing to the poverty, homelessness and lack of independence that some young people are now experiencing," Mr Lewis said.

Race rules complaint is upheld

A Daily Express report singled out seven Rastafarians from more than 110 people arrested at a rock festival as a result of a sub-editing mishap, but the Press Council says today its effect conflicted with the council's guidelines on mentioning race.

Mr R Borzello, of Islington, north London, complained that the paper reported that seven defendants were Rastafarians while not giving the religion of 103 others arrested.

The newspaper reported that police arrested more than 110 people on drugs charges at the Reading Festival. Seven Rastafarians were due to appear in court that day.

Mr Borzello suggested that by reporting the seven defendants were Rastafarians, the newspaper identified them as black.

The managing editor of the paper, Mr Struan Coupar, said that 110 people had been due to appear in court, 103 of them on charges of possessing drugs and the seven Rastafarians on charges of supplying them.

Mr Coupar supplied the originals of copy from the paper's own reporter, and an agency, making this clear. He explained that when the story was sub-edited this distinction was omitted. He said police believed the seven were part of a big drugs ring.

The Press Council upheld the complaint and said in its adjudication that the Daily Express story appeared, by the sub-editing mishap, to have singled out seven Rastafarians, identifying their religion, and inferentially their race, while giving no clue to those of the 103 other people arrested at the same rock festival on, apparently, similar drugs charges.

In fact the charges were not similar, and the description of the seven as Rastafarians was not, therefore, a gratuitous singling out of them as the error made it appear.

Its effect, however, was to conflict with the Press Council's repeated ruling that people's race should not be introduced in a prejudicial context unless it is relevant.

Soldier on death charge

An inquest into the death of a soldier, who died after an incident with a smoke flare during an Army demonstration at a fete, was adjourned indefinitely by the Birmingham coroner, Dr Richard Whittington, yesterday when a serving soldier stationed in Lichfield, Staffordshire, was charged with his manslaughter.

Martin Weston, aged 23, died from a suspected heart attack when the bomb exploded at the Camp Hill rugby club's fete at their ground in Shirley, West Midlands.

Mark Andrew Wilson, aged 20, from Lapworth, Warwickshire, a member of the Assault Pioneer Troop, appeared before Coventry magistrates yesterday charged with the manslaughter of Mr Weston, who lived in Coleshill Heath Road, Marston Green.

He was remanded on bail.

Boxers bound over after disturbance

Two boxers and a boxing manager agreed yesterday to be bound over to keep the peace for two years by Newport magistrates after a street disturbance.

They were David Pearce, aged 27, the former British heavyweight champion, of Newport, Gwent; Andrew Gerrard, aged 23, the Welsh contender, of Risca, near Newport; and Billy May, the manager, of Newport.

Shinwell pair face charges

The wife of Lord Shinwell's son was accused at Marylebone Magistrates' Court in central London yesterday of helping her husband to dispose of £18,000 he allegedly swindled from a prospective buyer of his father's flat.

Mrs Hanoma Shinwell, aged 43, of Melrose Avenue, Cricklewood, was remanded on bail to appear in January with her husband, Mr Ernest Shinwell, aged 68.

Students given chance to help US politicians

The English-Speaking Union is offering places for 15 British university students to work next summer as assistants to American congressmen and senators in Washington DC (Nicholas Beeston writes).

The scheme is being launched in co-operation with the Catholic University of America in Washington DC. Applicants should be interested in politics, economics and international affairs, and should possess skills in letter writing, word processing and researching data.

Application forms can be obtained from: Mrs Alison Wynne, National Youth Officer, the English-Speaking Union, Dartmouth House, 37 Charles Street, London W1X 8AB.



Donny, a bear hager, and his rescuer, Mrs Ruth Murray, who has campaigned for better protection for badgers for more than 30 years.

Donny is one of 51 badgers at Mrs Murray's sanctuary at Langer Hole Farm, Yelverton, Devon. He was found on Dartmoor badly mauled and suffering from hypothermia.

Mrs Murray, aged 61, has been celebrating her latest campaign victory, a move by the Ministry of Agriculture to

have proof before badgers suspected of spreading bovine tuberculosis are passed.

According to Mrs Murray, badgers are not naturally secretive, nocturnal animals. "They have been driven underground by years of persecution. My animals like nothing better than to lie in the sun."

The animals Mrs Murray cares for are always returned to the wild if possible. Meanwhile, they stay at her field study centre.

(Photograph: Nick Rogers)

Wife and rival in funeral dispute

The two women in the life of Charles Arnold, a dustman, could not agree about his funeral arrangements after he died of a heart attack three weeks ago.

Mr Arnold's widow, Louise, aged 58, wanted a cremation, followed by the interment of his ashes in north London.

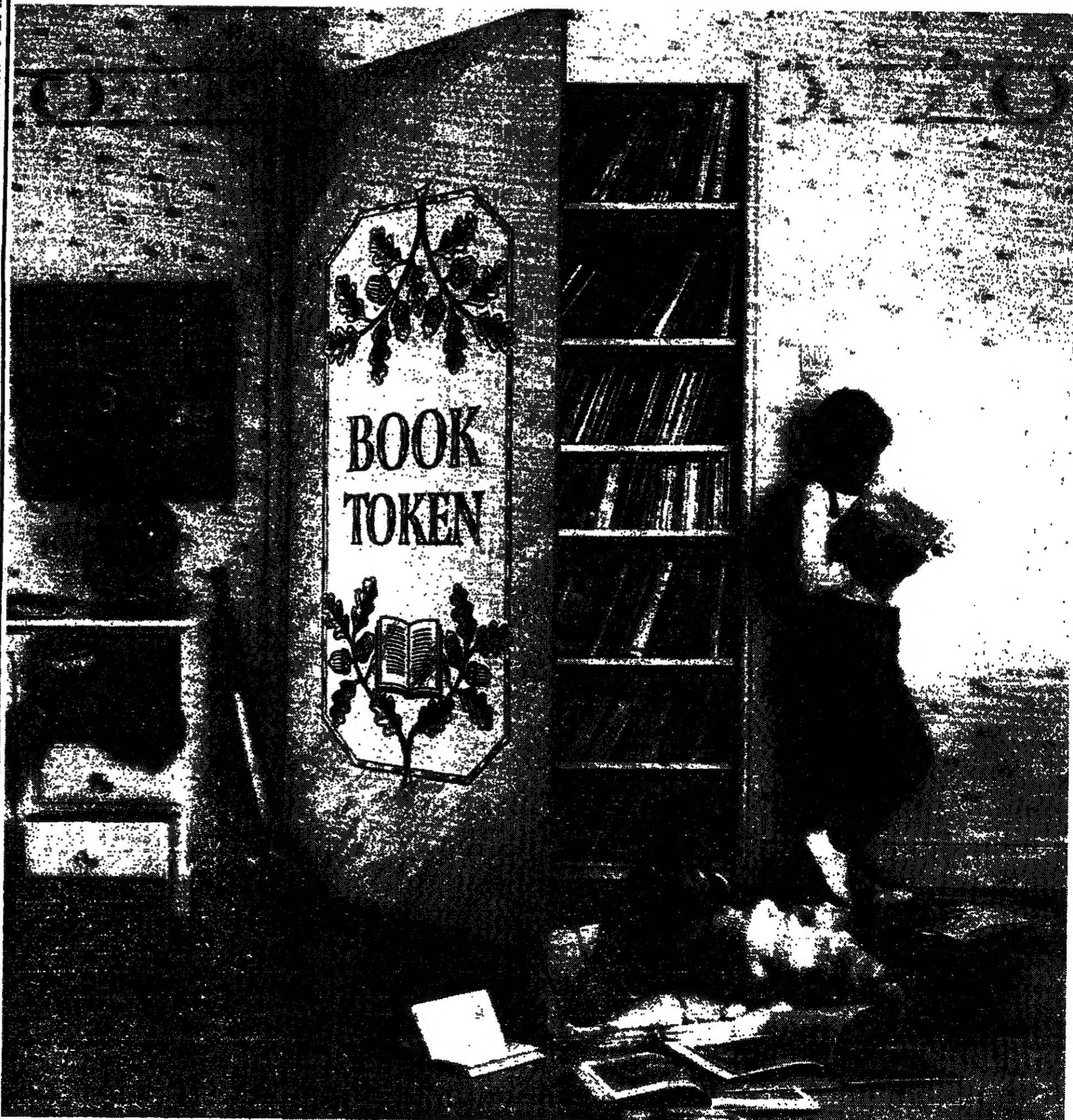
But Mrs Alice Holtham, aged 59, his close friend of two

years, who had lived at the same flat as Mr Arnold at Grampian House, Edmonton Green, north London, decided on a burial at Edmonton cemetery.

The hospital refused to release the body until a ruling was made and the issue was settled in the High Court yesterday when Mr Justice Hoffmann decided that Mrs

Arnold, of Rivulet Road, Tottenham, should make the funeral arrangements.

After considering the only previous reported case of its kind, which was heard more a century ago, the judge ruled in favour of Mrs Arnold and said he was aware that any decision he made was "bound to cause pain to one side or the other".



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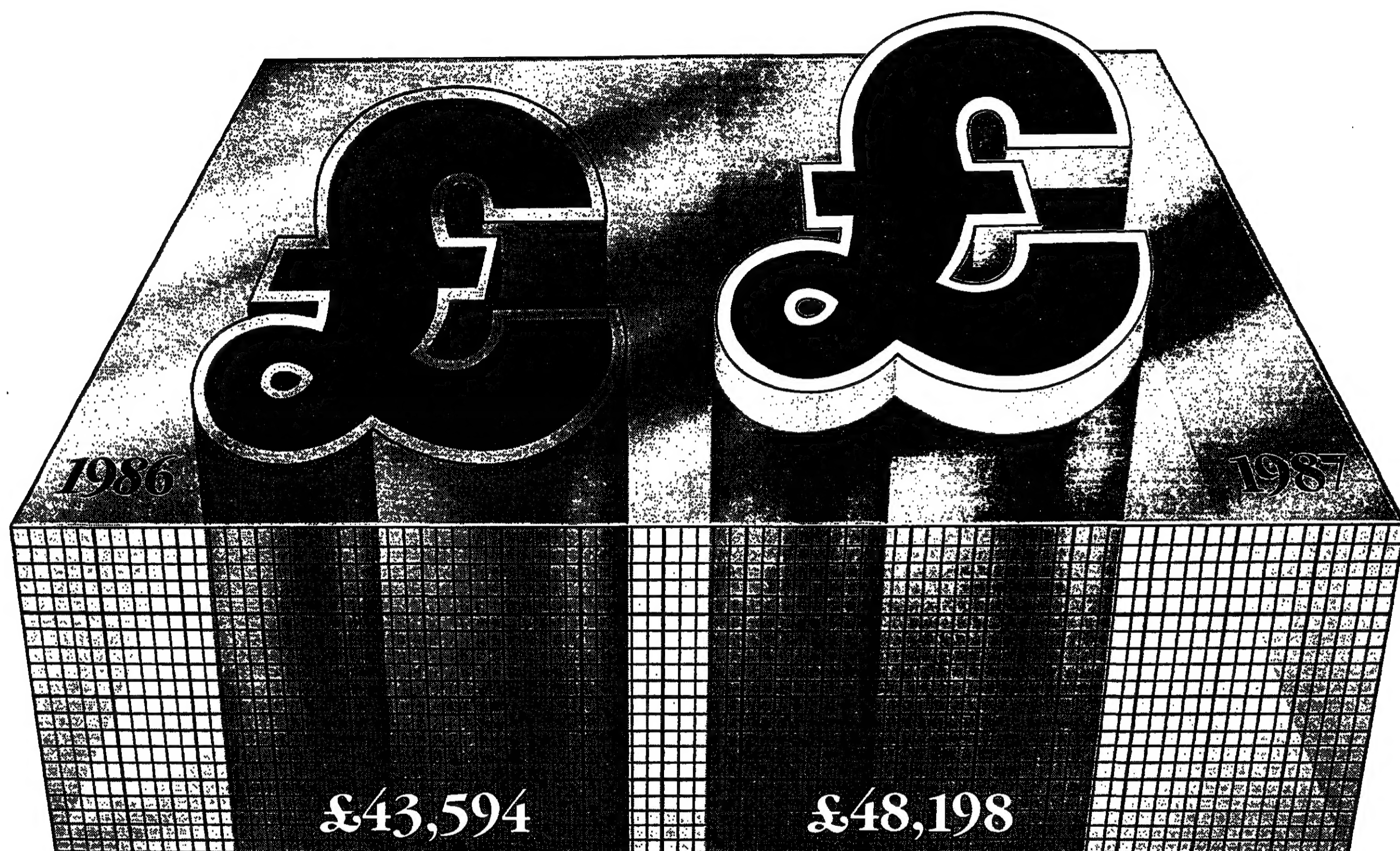
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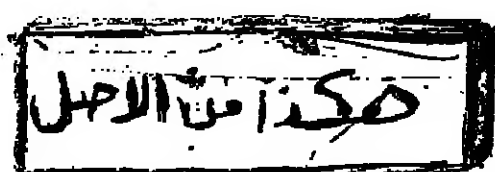


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WORLD SUMMARY

Foreign hostages freed at border

Geneva (Reuters) — Fifty-seven foreigners held in Mozambique by the National Resistance Movement (MNR) were released yesterday at the border with Malawi, according to the International Committee of the Red Cross.

A statement said that those freed — 43 Portuguese, 10 Pakistanis, two Cape Verdeans and two Mauritians — were handed over to Red Cross representatives who then took them to Blantyre in Malawi. An ICRC spokesman said it was expected that another eight captives, a Briton, four Portuguese and a West German, a family of three, would be released either late yesterday or today.

Mozambique has charged that MNR rebels operate from bases inside Malawi. The Malawi Government, however, has denied the charges.

Kurds are released

Stockholm — Four of the Kurds held by police in the murder investigation of Mr Olof Palme, the Swedish Prime Minister, have been released (A Correspondent writes). They were arrested after a shoot-out with police last Friday.

A fifth Kurd has been charged with illegal possession of a weapon and attempted manslaughter.

The incident gave the police the opportunity to raid the headquarters of a Kurdish organization, the PKK, which is thought to be behind the assassination of Mr Palme.

Bombing charges

Lusaka (AP) — Police have arrested three westerners on charges that they are South African agents and are responsible for bombings during last week's food riots in northern Zambia, a police spokesman said yesterday.

"They have confessed to having been recruited by the South African Government," he said, announcing the arrests of the unidentified Briton, New Zealander and Australian.

Officials at the British and Australian high commissions here said they were investigating the case.

Intransigence charge

Madrid — A Spanish official who will be in London today for discussions on Gibraltar yesterday accused Britain of intransigence over the issue (Richard Wigg writes).

"We note a clear intransigence by Britain to negotiating with Spain," Señor Jesus Ezquerro, director-general of the European department at the Foreign Ministry, told the official Spanish news agency. His visit is to prepare for talks on January 13 between the two countries' foreign ministers under the November 1984 Anglo-Spanish agreement.

● GIBRALTAR: Gibraltar's House of Assembly yesterday unanimously passed a motion calling for the colony's airport to remain exclusively under the control of British and Gibraltar authorities (Dominique Searle writes).

Trial set for Hall

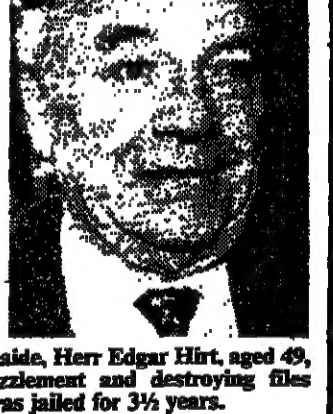
Managua (Reuters) — President Ortega of Nicaragua has said that Mr Sam Hall, an American, is a terrorist and will stand trial before the people's tribunal which last month sentenced a US gun-runner, Eugene Hasenfus, to 30 years' imprisonment.

The President said on Tuesday that Mr Hall was not a spy even though he was captured outside an air base on Friday with maps of military installations stuffed into his socks.

Scandal minister free

Bonn — A former West German Cabinet minister accused of pocketing millions of marks from secret government funds for buying political prisoners out of East German jails was acquitted yesterday by the Bonn High Court (John England writes).

Herr Egon Franke, right, aged 73, a Social Democrat, was charged with having embezzled a total of DM 6 million (£2.1 million) of public money between 1979 and 1982 when he was Minister for Inner-German Affairs.



Moscow in pledge to Democrats

From Christopher Walker Moscow

Senator Gary Hart, favourite to secure the Democratic nomination for the 1988 American presidential race, yesterday said that Mr Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, had pledged not to use the "Irangate" scandal to stall arms negotiations between the superpowers.

The Colorado senator said that in a 3½-hour meeting Mr Gorbachev had agreed that there should be no question of waiting for the next US administration before making efforts to conclude an arms agreement.

He quoted Mr Gorbachev as saying it was too important an issue to wait another 24 months.

There had been fears that Moscow may have privately abandoned hopes of reaching an arms agreement with President Reagan after the failed Reykjavik summit and the complications of the Iran arms scandal.

At the breakfast-time press conference, Senator Hart indicated that the question of a precise definition about what research would be permitted on Star Wars provided the best avenue to a possible compromise on arms.

He pinpointed disagreement over the type of research the US could carry out on space weapons as being the main reason for the failure of the two sides to reach "a major historic breakthrough" in Iceland.

He suggested that Mr Reagan may have thrown away such an agreement by insisting on testing SDI outside "the laboratory" without finding out precisely what the Kremlin meant by that term.

Man taken in second Swazi raid

From Michael Hornsby Johannesburg

Swaziland police disclosed yesterday that a man was abducted in a second raid by armed men presumed to have come from South Africa on Monday night.

The man has been identified by Swazi sources as Mr Roy Zahee, said to be a South African Indian and a member of the United Democratic Front (UDF), the multiracial but black-dominated anti-apartheid resistance movement.

On Friday armed members of the South African security forces kidnapped two Swiss, Mr Daniel Schneider, a commercial artist, and his fiancée, Miss Corinne Bischoff, an assistant hotel manager, and Mr Danger Nyoni, an assistant restaurant manager.

All three were later released. A fourth person, Mrs Grace Cele, was also abducted and is still missing.

In addition, The raiders killed the 13-year-old son of Mr Nyoni. It is believed that they shot and killed Mr Matthew Maphumulo, a member of the outlawed African National Congress.

● Subversion trial: Nine white campaigners against military conscription appeared in court in Cape Town yesterday on charges of making "subversive statements" in one of the few prosecutions so far recorded for offences under the South African state of emergency.

The three women and six men, all members of the End Conscription Campaign (ECC), were released on bail of rands 150 (£47) each in the Cape Town Magistrate's Court. The case was adjourned until January 14.

North 'plotted kidnap of Iranians to swap hostages'

From Michael Biryon Washington

Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North, the marine at the centre of the Iran affair, told a National Security Council (NSC) colleague that he planned to kidnap relatives of Iranian officials to swap them for Americans held hostage in Lebanon, it was reported yesterday.

He outlined his bizarre scheme to Mr David Major, an incredulous counter-terrorism specialist, on the same day last month that a Lebanese magazine first published details of the secret sale of US arms to Iran.

The Los Angeles Times, quoting sources close to Colonel North, said he denounced the Beirut report as "disinformation". He claimed the real plan to free the hostages was not to trade them for arms but for relatives of Iranian Government officials and he had ordered them to be kidnapped and held in cages throughout Europe.

Mr Major twice used the NSC computer to question Colonel North about his assertion. Colonel North twice ignored the queries. When asked a third time if he had ordered kidnappings, he tapped out the reply "yes", the Los Angeles Times said.

An Administration official said yesterday that Mr Major did not believe that Colonel North had actually kidnapped any Iranians. One source called the proposal "vintage Ollie" and another said: "He would rather tell a good story than the truth even if the truth serves his purposes better."

It is unclear how Colonel North intended to carry out his plan. One Iranian specifically mentioned was the nephew of Hashemi Rafsan-



Lieutenant-Colonel North: still at the centre of controversy.

jani, the Speaker of the Iranian Parliament. Colonel North told Mr Major that the kidnapped Iranians would be eventually "traded back" and traded for the Americans.

Mr Caspar Weinberger, the US Defence Secretary, yesterday testified before a closed hearing of the Senate Intelligence Committee as legal experts in Congress were examining President Reagan's

call for limited immunity for several of the key figures in the Iran affair who have refused to answer questions.

Several voiced scepticism over the move, saying it could hamper rather than help the special prosecutor who will be investigating the case.

Mr Archibald Cox, the first Watergate prosecutor, urged the committee to reject Mr Reagan's request which is an

evident attempt to get Admiral John Poindexter and Colonel North to testify.

"Rushing to grant immunity risks unnecessarily exculpating two of the principal actors in what may well be a major conspiracy to subvert the laws at the highest levels of government," he said.

Senior lawyers said even the granting of limited immunity would make any subsequent prosecution extremely difficult. Mr Richard Ben-Veniste, a former Watergate prosecutor, said Mr Edwin Meese, the Attorney-General who recommended the step to President Reagan, was acting out of political motives, they said.

Following the Senate announcement of its special investigating committee into the Iran affair, the House yesterday announced the composition of its 15-man committee headed by Mr Lee Hamilton, an Indiana Democrat. Vice-chairman will be Mr Dante Fascell, the Democratic chairman of the House foreign affairs committee.

The Senate committee will be headed by Senator Daniel Inouye of Hawaii, a former prosecuting attorney in Honolulu. The senior Republican will be Senator Warren Rudman of New Hampshire, a former Attorney-General of his state and chairman of the Senate committee on ethics.

Senator Christopher Dodd, a Connecticut Democrat recently returned from a two-day visit to Nicaragua, said yesterday that there was a good chance Mr Eugene Hasenfus, the American sentenced to 30 years' imprisonment for running weapons to the Contras, would be allowed to return to the US within a few days.

Warm welcome for EEC ministers' farm breakthrough

From Richard Owen, Brussels

Mr Frans Andriessen, the EEC Agriculture Commissioner, yesterday warmly welcomed the reforms agreed on Tuesday by EEC farm ministers at a meeting chaired by Mr Michael Jopling, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Mr Andriessen said that the package opened the way for a solution to the EEC's apparently insoluble budget crisis. The common agricultural policy (CAP) was a post-war creation designed to avoid shortages in Europe, but until now it had defeated efforts to adapt it to circumstances of surplus.

Mr Andriessen, who had repeatedly and almost despairingly urged the farm ministers to do something to stop the food mountains getting out of control, said that the process of reforming the CAP was far from complete.

The commission would put forward proposals for disposing of existing stocks as well as for curbing future output.

The farm package, agreed after lengthy talks, includes a cut of nearly 10 per cent in milk quotas over two years and a 13 per cent reduction in guaranteed prices for beef.

Mr Jopling was widely congratulated yesterday by EEC officials and Euro-MPs on his triumph.

EEC fisheries ministers yesterday opened the final talks of the British presidency, on talks on 1987 fishing quotas, including cod and haddock quotas in the North Sea.

Mr Andriessen echoed Mr Jopling's remark that the farm package meant that the "scandalous" surpluses built up over the past year "will be a thing of the past".

ments which made the package palatable to farmers would be paid for partly out of the savings made by reduced storage and price support costs. He put the saving in the dairy sector alone at over £1 billion.

Mr Andriessen said that the Commission had empowered the Commission further to suspend intervention (guaranteed EEC purchases of surplus food) if it was used excessively. Farm ministers are to define "excessively" by the end of February.

He stressed that the purpose was not to put pressure on the market but to restore intervention to its original purpose as a safety net.

He advanced four options on disposal of the 1,500,000 tonnes butter mountain: exports to "certain destinations"; use of butter for animal feeds; non-food uses; and cheap butter for EEC consumers.

The package would strengthen the EEC's international position and Brussels would be asking other negotiating parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) to emulate the EEC and reform their farm subsidy systems.

The measures had the merit of acknowledging that southern EEC states were not responsible for most of the surplus output. This would avoid a north-south divide and preserve Community cohesion.

Britain retains its variable beef premium as part of the package and benefits from a 6 per cent devaluation of the green pound for beef transactions. Ireland, which initially vetoed the beef deal, receives a £20 million beef premium as the price of its acceptance of the package.

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Surinam's rebel leader again outwits Bouterse by capturing aircraft

From Christopher Thomas, Paramaribo

Sergeant Ronny Brunswijk, the young rebel soldier whose guerrillas are storming through eastern Surinam, has captured two aircraft in another stunning demonstration of his ability to outwit government troops.

With a touch of audacity that infuriates the military dictators, he uses the planes' radios to issue a constant string of demands for reforms. Sometimes he gives a warning that he will strike a military target on a given day unless his ultimatum is met.

One of the aircraft is a civilian 16-seater; the other is thought to be a light military plane. It is not known where they are being kept, but clearly Sergeant Brunswijk is in control of at least one of the eight airstrips to the east.

The nearest airstrip to his stronghold at Stooman's Island, on the border with French Guiana, is 50 miles to the south at Benzdorp. But then the planes could also be at the border town of Albina, which the Government has evacuated and which almost certainly is in rebel hands.

No planes, including missionary aircraft, are allowed to fly to the east any more.

Air transport is the only practical means of travel in the nine-tenths of Surinam covered with dense trackless jungle. If Sergeant Brunswijk were able to fly and refuel his craft he would dramatically increase his tactical strengths.

Bush Negroes—rural blacks descended from runaway slaves—who have come to Paramaribo, say the Government has forced the evacuation of many entire villages in the east and there are strong indications that atrocities are

being committed against civilians.

Although Sergeant Brunswijk appears to take exceptional steps to avoid hurting civilians, there are strong suggestions that he, too, may have blood on his hands. At the time of the massacre in December 1982 of 15 civic leaders who had set up an opposition group, he was bodyguard to Lieutenant-Colonel Desi Bouterse, the military strongman.

Some say he was present when the men were lined up in the centre of Paramaribo and shot. In any case, he remained



Sergeant Brunswijk: Hired skilled foreign mercenaries closely involved with the regime for well over three years after the atrocity before resigning over a pay dispute and heading into the jungle.

Although there is widespread international concern at what is happening in Surinam, it is far from clear what kind of political ideology Colonel Bouterse is trying to impose.

Despite many threats, no industries have been nationalized. Works by Marx, Che Guevara and Mao are nowhere to be found. There are no revolutionary posters, and indeed, the newest official

slogan—"Democracy yes, terrorism no"—is far from communist.

With 15 sergeants, Colonel Bouterse took over government buildings in 1980 to support a pay rise for the Army. It snowballed and he ended up running the country, apparently much to his own surprise.

He and his men hung up a suggestion box outside the army barracks in the early days. Soon, a military council was formed along with a civilian Government headed by a President, Dr Chin A Sen, who was ousted in January 1982 and now is in exile in The Netherlands.

Soon after taking power Colonel Bouterse became impressed by the newly formed People's Revolutionary Party, headed by a small group of Castroites. A People's Militia, the secret eyes and ears of the Government, was formed on the Cuban model.

Having turned away from Cuba in a policy shift in 1983, he is now flirting with Libya. Nobody knows where that might lead. Rather than pursuing any clear ideology, he seems to be twisting and turning simply to retain power.

Sergeant Brunswijk, too, was never known as an ideologue.

With the obvious co-operation of French Guiana, the rebel leader has talked with Dutch journalists in the vaguest of terms about what he wants to achieve.

It appears that, with copious funds secured from Surinamese exiles in The Netherlands, he has hired large numbers of skilled foreign mercenaries.



Emotional greeting: Mr. Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister, left, embracing Mr. Elie Weisel, the Romanian-born American Jew who won the 1986 Nobel peace prize for literature for his work arising from his own humiliation in concentration camps, to luncheon at the Prime

Minister's home in Jerusalem yesterday. Mr. Shamir told foreign Jewish leaders that the predicted sharp decline in the world's Jewish population would be as catastrophic as the near-extirpation of European Jewry by the Nazis in the Second World War (Reuter reports from Jerusalem).

AFP crisis deepens as strike is extended

From Diana Geddes, Paris

The crisis at Agence France-Presse (AFP), the world's third largest news agency and the only one based on the French language, deepened yesterday as journalists entered the second week of their strike and demanded the resignation of M. Henri Pigat, aged 46, its managing director for 10 years.

There have already been warnings that the strike could sound the death knell for AFP, which has been labouring under increasing competition from the two leading international agencies, Associated Press and Reuters, and suffering huge losses as a result.

After a deficit last year of 63.7 million francs (£6.8 million), the agency expects to make a further loss of 50 million francs this year on a turnover of 792 million francs, despite having shed 140 of its 2,000 staff in the past six months.

Under a controversial emergency restructuring plan introduced by M. Pigat in July, 300 jobs are due to be shed by 1989, half of them journalists. In addition, AFP's foreign-language services are due to be decentralized and streamlined, with the German desk moving from Paris to Bonn, the Latin American desk to Washington, and the Middle East desk to Nicosia.

The journalists are demanding the abandonment of most of the decentralization proposals and are refusing to accept compulsory redundancies. They say the plan will lead to a poorer quality and ultimately unviable service.

They put the entire blame for the crisis on M. Pigat, complaining that he has never had any direct journalistic experience, and accusing him of being "cold, arrogant and incompetent".

Forty heads of editorial departments signed a petition yesterday demanding his resignation. Such a move was "an indispensable condition for the resumption of normal working at the agency and for the maintenance of its place in the world".

AFP journalists voted two to one on Tuesday evening in favour of a further 48-hour extension of the strike, after the breakdown of the first attempt at negotiations between the management and unions. The talks lasted only 12 minutes before the journalists walked out.

There is now talk of bringing in a provisional administrator or a mediator.

Spanish pupils echo French protests

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Tens of thousands of Spanish secondary schoolchildren took to the streets yesterday to protest against the Socialist Government's policies on university education.

In Madrid, at least 50,000 teenage pupils marched to the Education Ministry to demand the immediate withdrawal of measures limiting university access, as well as calling for more public spending on education.

Teenagers in other cities, including Barcelona, Valencia, Seville and Granada, also responded to a nationwide strike call, which left most of the state-run secondary schools without classes.

Though the organizers failed to bring out a majority of the two million schoolchildren involved, the demonstrations were the first challenge by young people to Señor Jose Mari Barrio, the Socialist Education Minister.

The protesters want him to cancel the university entrance restrictions which he introduced in May, as well as removing the recent increases in student university fees.

The Spanish demonstrations echo events in France in recent weeks, but one of the organizers said: "We are not copying the French, though the two countries' education policies are very much alike."

The schoolchildren's fears about getting a place in Spain's already badly overcrowded universities are long-standing, but the French example has clearly inspired the schoolchildren, as well as the Communist and political forces to the left of the governing Socialists.

Two rival groups tried to lead the protest: a Madrid committee based on 60 local state-run secondary schools, and a Marxist students' union which has suddenly surfaced from the provinces.

At a meeting before yesterday's march a majority resisted efforts by Madrid University students to take over the schoolchildren's more limited university entrance problems.

The two rival groups marched separately yesterday and Señor Marcelino Camacho, the Communist trade union leader, switched from one group to the other.

Senior Education Ministry officials said that they would be willing to consider the schoolchildren's demands.

Privatization success

French look to sale of banking group

From Diana Geddes, Paris

After the huge success of the privatization of St Gobain—the first of 65 public companies and banks due to be denationalized over the next five years—the French Government is pressing ahead with the sale of the Paribas financial group.

From tomorrow, 20 per cent of the group's capital will be on offer under special conditions to French business institutions which, it is hoped, will form a "club of friends" designed to prevent any eventual foreign takeover. The main public floatation is due at the end of January or in February.

Shares for St Gobain, the glass and building materials group, were offered for sale three weeks ago at 310 francs (£33).

Initial demand outstripped share offers by 14 times. The shares were already being quoted at 355-360 francs on the London "grey market" last week, and trading on the open market is due to start next Tuesday.

The Government was particularly pleased by the large number of small shareholders who came forward in a country where there is little tradition of popular share ownership.

More than a million of the 1.6 million St Gobain shareholders are private individuals, and the group now has six times more shareholders than any other French company.

Ten per cent of the capital was offered at preferential rates to the company's 150,000 employees. More than 60,000 immediately snapped up all the available shares.

Abroad, the 18 per cent of the 28 million shares reserved for foreign investors were bought within 48 hours.

The Government had originally intended to sell 20 per cent of the capital on the foreign markets, but in the end took back a further 2 per cent to help to satisfy the overwhelming domestic demand.

M. Edouard Balladur, the Finance Minister, described the operation at the weekend as "an exemplary success; the results show, without any argument, the birth of a truly popular share ownership in France".

The Government put forward its most attractive company first, St Gobain, which was nationalized in 1982, is well known throughout the world and made a healthy 753 million francs profit last year on a turnover of 67.8 billion francs.

The outstanding success of this first test-case nevertheless bodes well for the rest of the Government's highly ambitious privatization programme.

which involves half of the exceptionally large public sector in France, with an estimated value of 250-300 billion francs.

The Paribas group, with profits last year of 2.7 billion francs on assets of 551 billion francs, is the next due for privatization.

A television advertising campaign, showing the elegant interior of the group's Paris-based headquarters, began last week.

As with St Gobain, 10 per cent of the capital will be offered at preferential rates to the bank's 55,000 employees, while a further 20 per cent will be set aside for foreign investors.

In addition, 25 per cent of the capital will be offered in the form of "privileged investment certificates" which will attract a higher dividend but carry no voting rights.

The sale of Assurances Générales de France, the second biggest French insurance group and the third company due for denationalization, has run into technical problems and is not likely to take place until the autumn.

So it looks as if the first French television channel, TF1, will follow the privatization of Paribas with a floatation due about March or April.

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Spanish pupils echo French protests

From Richard Wignall
Madrid

Tens of thousands of Spanish secondary schoolchildren took to the streets yesterday to protest against the Government's policies on university education.

In Madrid, at least 50,000 teenage pupils marched to the education ministry to demand measures limiting university access, as well as calling for more public spending on education.

Protesters in other cities including Barcelona, Valencia, Seville and Granada, also struck out in a nationwide strike which left most of the nation's secondary schools without classes.

Protest organizers failed to bring out a majority of the nation's schoolchildren, however, and the demonstration was the first challenge to the Government's policies since the Socialist Education Minister, Juan Vázquez, took office in May.

The protesters want him to cancel the university entrance exam, which he introduced in May, as well as reversing the recent increase in student university fees.

The Spanish demonstration is the latest in a series of recent events in France in which schoolchildren have taken to the streets. "We are not happy with the French education system," said one of the protesters.

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THE ARTS

A peace without mercy

In 1986, the International Year of Peace, \$1,000 billion was spent on arms and there were 15 wars. It was a peace which passed the understanding of most of us. In a report made through the eyes of four characters, *Global Report - People for Peace* (BBC2) was more successful at showing a world picture than Thames' recent celebration of UNICEF; it also revealed television's superiority as a medium for conveying the many textures of this world.

Admittedly, the programme got off to a slow, cumbersome start with Alfred Molina's Pitmanesque voiceover and the usual eye-drooping footage of United Nations troops at work in the Lebanon. But, as one persevered, this production by Peter Firstbrook and Clare Paterson took flight. Few punches were pulled in meeting out blame. Indeed, a knobby finger was pointed at most of the developed countries in the UN, unruffled combinations of peace-keepers and arms suppliers.

TELEVISION

Two of those selected for their story were representatives of the "strong army means lasting peace" camp, and as a result fairly institutionalized in their responses. Hans Vanmaele, a Nato pilot in the Belgian Air Force, was more or less saying Cheese to the idea of peace. His dog-fight training in an F-16, which rose like an evil moorhen above the tarmac, was a game to laugh at over a beer. Infinitely more rewarding was to see the Labrador Indians whose peace was violated by such low-flying aircraft. "They treat us like the enemy," lamented the timid Sylvester Andrew, a hunter whose traditional way of life is being steam-rollered by the Nato airbase.

Of all those who appeared, however, from the President of Costa Rica to Desmond Tutu, it was the Kampuchean grandmother Cheing Yan who left the most impact. When her son-in-law appeared back at the Thai refugee camp, with out legs, she wept from depths of both relief and grief. Together as a family again, they remained a family without a future. What a world, one thought, watching her daughter's face and the man's empty legs. What a horrible, horrible world.

Nicholas Shakespeare

The anti-American rock group New Model Army have at long last broken into the United States: David Sinclair meets them in New York

Puritan problem

Jason Harris (left), Slade the Leveller, Robb Heaton (photograph by Michael Scott)

A group sadly lacking the necessary "distinguished merit and ability" was the decision of the United States immigration authorities in turning down New Model Army's petition for an H1 visa, the document required by alien entertainers wishing to perform in America. Given that the trio who formed in Bradford in 1982 had already secured a major recording contract with EMI/Capitol, released two albums and even appeared on *Top of the Pops*, this seemed a harsh judgement, especially when recent applications by such groups as GBH, the Poison Girls and Easternhouse have been approved without comment.

New Model Army's case has become the most notorious of its kind. They were turned down three times, and released a third album before the authorities had a change of heart enabling the group to undertake an 11-date tour which began in Boston on December 4.

When they arrived in New York this week the streets were teeming with Christmas shoppers. As Frank Sinatra prepared to open the refurbished Carnegie Hall, an exhausted, wretched-looking Slade the Leveller sat in the drab dressing-room of the 400-capacity Lone Star Club in Greenwich Village.

Theories as to the reason for New Model Army's previous inadmissible status ranged from the view of the current immigration attorney, Richard Fraude, that the documentation accompanying the unsuccessful petitions was inadequate, to the more romantic notion that the group's



Excellence regarded with mistrust

"It is time", said Sir Georg Solti, in one of those phrases only he can invent, "to grasp the hot iron." The burning object in question is the threat to opera standards in London.

Solti had just returned from Paris, where a senior French government official had been praising Covent Garden to him and expressing envy at "one of the few stable operatic institutions in the world". But what did Solti find back in London but newspaper and television talk of cut-backs, possible close-downs and demands for greater dependence on private funding. Solti, with virtually a decade as Music Director at Covent Garden behind him, was vehement, the eyes burning even more brightly than usual.

"For the first time in my career I

The Arts Council is expected to announce the new grants for Covent Garden and ENO this weekend. Sir Georg Solti (left), former Music Director of the Royal Opera House, speaks out for the first time to John Higgins about current public underfunding of opera in Britain

want to speak out about the need for public funding of the arts in Britain. We are in danger of throwing away everything that has been built up over the past forty years. In 1946 there was no opera here. Before the war Covent Garden seasons were short: you could probably hear more opera in Catania than in London. But last year over a million people heard opera in London and other cities in Britain. So much for charges of elitism!

"Building up is a slow process; pulling down can be achieved all

too quickly. It is time for us to speak up for something that should be a source of national pride - and I am referring to Covent Garden because it is the house in which I worked and will continue to work. Covent Garden has made boobies of us all make boobies from time to time - Solti makes boobies. But it is essential that Britain has an international opera house and not a half-international house. And it should be properly funded.

"Priestley said that in his report, but it was not properly acted on. Indeed, I felt the anti-opera tide

growing stronger after that report. Things have been going wrong over the past three years or so. Greater dependence on private funding is not the answer. I don't know an opera house in Europe which is other than reliant on support from local or national government. Every theatre has fixed costs, mostly labour, which cannot be altered. It is argued that artists' fees are too high, but the money paid to the Domingos, Karajans and Soltis is but a small fraction of the overall budget. Opera is expensive - it always has been expensive - and if

we want it then it must be paid for.

"Once Britain used to be accused of being a nation of philistines. It is not true, although there are certainly some philistines among the civil servants. On the contrary, I know no capital in the world with a musical audience more appreciative than the one in London. But what I do note here is a tendency to see excellence, and especially professional excellence, as something rather suspicious. It is a malaise, it is growing and it must be arrested.

"In Paris Mitterand gives the order for the Musée d'Orsay and the city has a wonderful new building. The Orchestre de Paris, now that it has a permanent home in the Salle Pleyel under Barncobim, is a totally reformed and powerful force. In London we must not let things slide. It is time to speak for a return to excellence."

Playing as if they adore it

CONCERT

ASME/Brown Festival Hall

There was nothing out of the ordinary about this concert. Nothing, that is, except the performers, the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields, whose cornerstone the early 18th-century repertoire is. They may have disdained the authentic cudgels of the period-style propagandists, but in some respects they have moved with the times.

Their rhythms are beautifully pointed and they always make the textures clear, even if by modern (or rather, ancient) standards the group is large. And one is more likely to encounter patches of stylish ornamentation than used to be the case. But, most important, they play the music as though they adore it, and in consequence it lives.

For that, much of the credit belongs to the Academy's director and leader, Iona Brown, who here showed that she knows just how much - or how little - to dominate,

directing with an exaggerated bow-stroke here, a deft raising of the eyebrows there. Moreover, her style of solo playing has none of the disadvantages of that of many of her authenticist colleagues. In Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*, she projected an unashamedly forthright tone, swelling to a tremendously forceful richness, for example, in the second movement of "Spring", while, although she hardly made the work sound easy, her technique was utterly reliable.

The light and shade of her reading was matched by apt choices of tempo, save that for the hunting finale of "Autumn", where Harmoncourt's

recording, fast, furious and panic-stricken, just like a real chase, has become my personal benchmark. But Brown certainly gave its rhythms an aggressive accentuation, negating brusquely the deliciously somnolent effect of John Constable's harpsichord decorations in the previous movement. Constable, incidentally, provided some improvised widdies that verged delightfully upon the camp throughout the work.

Earlier, in Bach's B minor orchestral Suite, the flautist William Bennett likewise ensured that he kept the prominence of his role to a level befitting chamber music, taking the "Badinerie" carefully and phrasing all of his solo music exquisitely. But he is an Academy regular, and so we should hardly expect anything else.

Stephen Pettitt

A group of irresistible talent

LONDON DEBUTS

There are debuts and debuts. London recently had one of each. First, the good news. The Novsak Trio are already well established on the Continent - their leader, Primoz Novsak, is Yugoslav, but the other two come from Switzerland where the ensemble is based - and play as though they have been together for years. Novsak himself leads with purpose and spirit; Michel Roudy's viola is unusually big-voiced; Susanne Basler's cello of distinctive character and imaginative breadth. Together they make music as if they are absolutely thrilled to be doing so.

They showed themselves as a trio only in two British premieres of works dedicated to them: their classical repertoire was represented by Mozart and Brahms Piano Quartets in which they were joined by Günter Ludwig, a pianist every bit their equal in musical energy. Uros Krek's 1977 String Trio of three continuous movements - a strongly sculpted fugue, an interlude and a caprice - was a com-

ingly intense and intensely economic piece, breathing the air of Shostakovich's chamber music, but with a spirit and voice very much its own. This and a more heavily post-romantic Piano Trio by Joseph Haydn put the Novsak on their mettle.

The Brahms (G minor, Op 25) and particularly the Mozart (E flat, K493) Quartets revealed the fusion of seriousness and imaginative stimulus which makes the playing of the trio so irresistible. The judgement of tempo and their interrelationships was particularly exciting: they must return to London soon.

The 26-year-old Greek guitarist Dionysios Dervis will have to wait a little longer. His programme of Bach, Villa-Lobos and Frank Martin demonstrates playing which would be idiosyncratic (eccentric even) if the technique were at all sound. As it is Dervis, whose articulation is nimble enough, badly needs direction in almost every other aspect of his playing. Why, for instance, choose the violin rather than the lute version of the Third Bach Partita? Why work laboriously through five Villa-Lobos Preludes when they are made to sound all the same? And why end with the composer's rag-bag of *Choros* when their ponderous jollity can only be pulled off with a sort of élan for which this debutsante is only beginning to seek?

Hilary Finch



But just what is she sending up? - Susan Tracy with Roger Allam (photograph by Donald Cooper)

THEATRE

Heresies

The Pit

Not the most pig-like male chauvinist, seeking to poke fun at feminist theatre, could improve on the opening of Deborah Levy's play, which shows a dignified lady composer striking a few filtering octaves on her postage grand, closely followed by a cleaner singing "And the women of the Danube are fruitful" as she scrubs the stage, while in the background a third figure is rhythmically tramping grapes in a foot-bath.

All 12 characters in the piece have names. But they are also identified as "the courtesan", "the educator", "the student" and similar descriptions assigning them to particular social roles. We are, in other words, witnessing a thematic drama; which, as the rest of the long evening goes to prove, is a contradiction in terms.

It consists of several little character groups, who seem to have been brought quite fortuitously together on the same acting area. There is Leah, the composer, and her companion

Violet, the grape-treading educator (as played by Susan Colver and Paola Dionisotti they bear a strong resemblance to Hinge and Bracken). There is Edward "the lonely businessman" whose "courtesan" wife is pursuing an affair with an overbearing architect. Then there is a submissive Irish housekeeper and her Republican sister; plus the chorus of a hairdresser, a body conditioner and an African fortune-teller who team up halfway through as the three witches.

From a programme note by the director, Susan Todd, it emerges that *Heresies* has been through the workshop treatment whose point "is not only to produce a play at the end but to dynamically alter the actors', writers' and

director's relationship to the material". She might as well have put up a placard saying "spectators keep out". Apart from the nervous obsession with "creativity", the material appears mainly to refer to the question of belief. Most of the characters are looking for a belief or losing one. Downstage, evidently to rub this in, is an aquarium full of dead fish.

About halfway through the evening, Miss Levy embarks on a plot which involves her in trying to pull together a group of characters who have nothing to do with each other. The architect Pimm (Roger Allam) turns out to have been Leah's pupil and has a go at a Chopin prelude while she lectures him on selling out. The jealous courtesan, Maryonaise (sic), egged on by the witches, sets about kidnapping Pimm's daughter with the object of shipping the child and its cleaner mother back to the Danube. The stage becomes engulfed in coincidences and unlooked-for

reunions which would do credit to a Drury Lane melodrama. And the evening winds up with an attractive instrumental piece by Ilona Sekacz for which Leah takes the credit, standing to one side sardonically illuminated.

The piece is written in elevated platitudes, and characters strike attitudes and deliver editorializing rhetoric as if it were dialogue. Some good performers are involved in this sorry mess; and, in the case of Miriam Karlin as a raddled old showbiz mother and Ann Mitchell as the quietly dignified housekeeper, they momentarily bring the stage to life. Susan Tracy, turning double somersaults in increasingly dazzling jumpsuits, is as eye-catching as a golden lizard; though, as my woman neighbour remarked, "That blonde is sending something up - but what?" If the group could not have seen that there was no play here, surely the RSC management might have pointed this out to them.

Irving Wardle

DANCE

The Kosh

The Place

The Kosh's new programme comprises two works with somewhat discrepant purposes and methods. I wish that some of the directness and warmth of Stan Williams' long opening solo could have got itself into the meandering, episodic and contrived main piece, and that the solo could have received an injection of more rigorous clarity in return.

Telling Tales is an exploration of grief and mourning by a daughter, a son and his girlfriend. The acrobatics which were prominent in earlier productions by this group

are less strenuously pursued here, the skilful falls casually introduced in different ways for each performer being more effective than the artfully insinuated somersaults and balances. They are supplemented with simple dance and stylized gesture, also a lot of deliberately repetitive talking (live and recorded), chanting

and singing by the performers. The sequences showing various aspects of sorrow are carefully worked out for contrast and effect. But they leave the spectator too conscious of the range of study from which they have been developed. The outcome of Michael Merwitzer's conscientious direction is that they seem illustrations of textbook situations, not a really theatrical transformation of the material.

The solo *Peasant on the Run*, on the other hand, seems all theatrical effect. An opening change of costume (on stage but extremely discreet)

transforms the dancer from modern casual clothes to a quaint, pseudo-flamenco dress. Thenceforth it is contrast all the way: prayer followed by provocative flaunting, enigmatically intense gestures set against light folksy steps. Probably it means more to the performer than to her audience.

Both works are clobbered by boring, trite sound scores by Howard J. Davidson, but redeemed by the performers: Stan Williams in both pieces, with Fiona Creese and Richard Attlee in *Telling Tales*.

John Percival

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cast inc: Sally Burgess, John Treleaven/
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Conductors Mark Elder/Paul Daniel
Producer David Pountney
Designer Maria Björnsen

Strauss's DIE FLEDERMAUS

Tonight at 7.30 then Dec 27, 31
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"visually handsome...
stylish and entertaining"
D. Telegraph



cast inc: Valerie Masterson/Catherine Wilson,
Alan Opie, Lillian Watson,
Stuart Kile, Christopher Booth-Jones,
Fiona Kimm, Eric Shilling, Simon Masterton-Smith
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SPECTRUM

The phantom of the actor

THE TIMES PROFILE

MICHAEL CRAWFORD

There is a certain kind of fame which seems to be built on anonymity. Virtuoso stars of musicals, in particular, seem to be so aggressively there when on stage that they almost vanish when off it. Nobody, for example, ever seems to do a very good job of saying precisely what Michael Crawford is like.

On the one hand, of course, he is Frank Spencer of *Some Mothers Do 'ave 'em*, writing and apologetically for yet another appalling domestic blunder. Or he is Phineas T. Barnum, or Billy, or the Phantom of the Opera. On the other hand he is a somewhat odd, isolated individual, exercising on his rowing machine in his house by the river at Wapping and commuting daily to Her Majesty's Theatre.

Even his name has changed, as if in response to the uncertainty of his identity. Born Michael Dumbell Smith, he became Michael Ingram via his step-father and finally he legally adopted his stage name of Crawford — chosen from a passing biscuit lorry — in 1965.

He was born in Salisbury in 1942. His father, a pilot, had been killed in action before his birth and he spent his first three years in an army camp being brought up by his mother. After the war, he moved with his mother to Sheerness in Kent, the home of his maternal grandmother who was to become the central figure in his family life. His mother then remarried and they moved to Bexleyheath.

It was a happy childhood which only ran into problems at school. He went first to a choir school in Bexley. His mother had no theatrical ambitions for him but liked hearing him sing. They subsequently moved to Herne Hill and he went to school in Dulwich — not to the school in Dulwich but to one next door called Oakfield. It was nevertheless private and a considerable burden for his hard-up family.

Academically he survived adequately in class but proved incapable of passing exams. Escape, however, was at hand. Their next door neighbour in Herne Hill spotted an advertisement, placed by the English Opera Company, in the *Daily Telegraph*. They wanted boy sopranos for the juvenile leads in Benjamin Britten's opera *The Turn of the Screw*. He went along, recited a poem and sang *Early One Morning*. He made it to the last five boys out of 800. But at the final audition at the Criterion Theatre he went to pieces and another boy — one David Hemmings — got the part.

Six months later, he was called back. Now they were looking for somebody to sing *The Little Sweep* in Britten's *Let's Make an Opera* and the final audition was in Britten's house in Regent's Park. He made it and opened in the show at the Royal Court, sharing the part with Hemmings. Soon afterwards, a schoolmaster at Oakfield wrote a play for schools radio. Crawford sang a song, was taken on by an agent and, by the time he was 15, he had made around 500 radio broadcasts as well as being in Britten's next opera, *Noye's Fludde*.

He was an energetic, extrovert teenager. He was captain and goalkeeper of the school football team, but he was sent off every week for dissent. He embarked on immense cycle rides — to South-end or Brighton in back in a day — and later, aged about 19, he became an early Mod.

He left Oakfield at 15 and went into rep at Coventry for a year, working with Richard Briers, Alan Howard and Frank Finlay. Returning to London, he kept up the radio work and supplemented his income by working as a waiter in Lyons' Corner House.

His athletic efficiency was such that he looked after a whole floor, a task that normally took four waiters. He was writing dozens of letters to producers. Yet, much as he enjoyed show business, he nursed an ambition to earn some qualifications and become a test pilot, a job for which he was convinced he was perfectly suited.

But he was spotted at Lyons by a TV producer who gave him a part in *Emergency Ward 10* consisting of one line delivered from a body encased from head to foot in bandages. He forgot the line — a disastrous state of affairs for a live show — and had to raise the bed sheet to peer downwards at a prompt card with the unforgettable "Have you seen this, Nurse?" written upon it. He never went back on that medical soap. The Sixties embraced Crawford as it did many others. A small part in a Steve McQueen film — *The War Lover* — led to a big part in the 18-month London run of Neil Simon's *Come Blow Your Horn*. It was a part that lifted Crawford to a higher show business rank and identified him as a comic actor. But the *Zeitgeist* really took hold with his part in the Richard Lester film *The Knack* and the role of the gormless, motorcycling Byron in Ned Sherrin's *Not So Much a Programme, More a Way of Life*. In 1965 he married Gabrielle Lewis, an actress. Soon afterwards



As seen, occasionally, in real life: is Michael Crawford more, or less, than the sum of his parts?

Emma was born and in 1967 the Crawfords went to New York for his Broadway run in Peter Shaffer's *Black Comedy*. Gene Kelly spotted him, cast him for the third lead in *Hello, Dolly* and suddenly the Crawfords were living in Bel Air next door to Elvis Presley, who put his house on the market after a week — possibly, muses Crawford, because he rehearsed his songs for the film standing on the back garden wall. But those six months cured him of any hankering after Hollywood.

"It wasn't a lifestyle that I could be happy with. It wasn't real. It was like living on Astroturf — you try to kid yourself it needs watering."

For Crawford, as for many others, the seventies came like a long hangover. He walked into two disasters: he lost £250,000 in an ill-judged property investment and then his marriage collapsed. "I still have a great affection for Gabrielle — we got on very well. But we married very young and grew apart. I don't suppose it was too easy for her to cope with what I was doing — work is a big part of your life."

The break-up began while Crawford was making the first series of *Some Mothers Do 'ave 'em* and the divorce was completed during the two-year run of the musical *Billy* at Drury Lane. The divorce settlement left him more

or less broke and he found he had to start again. He bought a cottage in Bedfordshire — the success of the TV series meant that in London he could not walk down the street without being accosted.

The 13 episodes of *Some Mothers* of 1973 had turned Frank Spencer into a figure of popular legend as well as one of the easiest targets for every impressionist in the business. He performed his own stunts and established himself as one of the most athletic stars around. He made seven more in the late seventies but refused to continue, realising the danger of falling off the tightrope between being funny and being pitiable. By the 20th episode, Crawford

BIOGRAPHY



As seen, frequently, in public life: Frank Spencer (left) he loved — and left behind to go on stage as Billy, Barnum and The Phantom

1942: Born January 19, Salisbury, St Michaels College, Bexley and Oakfield School, Dulwich.
1957: Went into repertory.
1964: Film *The Knack*.
1965: Stage appearance in *Travelling Light* and film of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. Married Gabrielle Lewis, actress.
1968: *Hello, Dolly*.
1970: *Hello and Goodbye*.

1971: Stage version of *No Sex Please, We're British*.
1973: *Some Mothers Do 'ave 'em*.
1974: Musical *Billy*.
1975: Divorce finalised.
1976: Play, *Same Time Next Year*.
1978: ITV comedy series *Chalk and Cheese*.
1979: *Flowers for Algernon*.
1981: *Barnum* five-year run starts.
1986: *Phantom of the Opera*. Wins second Laurence Olivier award for the outstanding performance in a musical.

detected the laughter might be about to become a little uneasy. He even turned down a \$3 million offer to take Spencer to America. "People said I was mad, that I wouldn't have to worry for the rest of my life. But what life? I wouldn't have one, after five years of that I would never do anything else again."

In any case, it was still the theatre that moved him most. When remembering television or film he is pensive, when remembering stage shows he leaps to his feet and starts re-enacting the performance. This happens most enthusiastically when he recalls *Flowers for Algernon*. He played a mentally retarded man who struck up a relationship with a mouse — among other things this involved an elaborate musical number with a mouse he had trained himself.

"Every night this mouse was just brilliant, he brought the house down. I got the best reviews of my life — I know it was the best thing I've ever done but the show closed after six weeks. I think the ending was just too sad. People stayed in their seats crying. And three weeks after the show closed that mouse just died..."

Next came *Barnum*, a show which took Crawford's acrobatic abilities to the limit and accounted for five years of his life — but for one year off. And it was when the closure of *Barnum* was announced that he was contacted by Andrew Lloyd Webber and asked to play the Phantom.

The role is that of the romantic lead — gone are the comedy and the acrobatics. The effects are, of course, expensive and intriguing but the show as a whole is virtually unimaginable without Crawford. He brings to what would otherwise be a rather messy piece of hokum that curious intensity, a total involvement which critics have noticed in everything he does.

Harold Fielding, the impresario responsible for *Barnum*, says that Crawford is the most dedicated performer he has ever come across. He points out that Crawford played the part of Barnum for four years — nobody else has lasted more than one year. But he also notes a certain shyness in the man: "He is not easy to get to know. But, once you do, he tends to become a friend for life. Even though *Barnum* has been closed for some time the cast still get together for reunions — and that is thanks to Michael."

All this is more than mere professionalism, it seems to spring from an almost naive determination to win praise, to be utterly and completely engrossed in whatever he is doing. Repeatedly his conversation returns to the need for people to be encouraged, to be led on. He speaks with almost childlike pleading and his dressing room at Her Majesty's is filled with toy clowns and trinkets in the manner of a nursery.

He treats this room as his home. Each night the make-up artist spends two and a half hours with him, leaving him as The Phantom at about six. From then he sucks Complan through a straw — the make-up precludes eating — and, as the show begins, he sits silently on the coffee table waiting for his cue. Before he goes on he crosses himself.

He laughs nervously as I leave. There are still a couple of hours to go before he starts being turned into the Phantom and looking at him it is difficult to imagine who he will be for that brief interval.

Bryan Appleyard

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Phantom of the Opera is playing at Her Majesty's Theatre. A television film of Barnum will be shown on BBC1 on Boxing Day (5.40pm)

In Britain's biggest cultural growth area — museums and galleries — the need for modern marketing techniques was recognised long before yesterday's announcement of £250,000 of Government money to encourage market research and advanced publicity methods.

Museums and galleries, faced by the realities of a 3 per cent grant increase this year alongside costs rising by about 6 per cent, are already setting up a series of massive marketing and merchandising machines to play the game. Neil Cossons, for example, new director of the Science Museum, put publicly funded museums in turmoil by introducing admission charges and appointing a marketing manager at the National Maritime in 1983.

He is in the final stages of head-hunting a £30,000-a-year marketing specialist for the Science Museum. "We reckon that the institution needs that weight of management ability. The object is to double our generated income of £1 million over the next 18 months to two years."

Hard sell in the gallery

The idea of putting art on the market was not, it seems, born yesterday

Sir Roy Strong of the V & A announced yesterday charges last year as part of a marketing strategy of which a more important element would be V & A Enterprises — "we will be the Laura Ashley of the 1990s," he said.

V & A Enterprises, set up with bank loans and money from a bequest, has a commercial director, Michelle Stewart, brought from Debenhams. Her first task is to get the shop working properly: it is to be completely redesigned during a five-

month closure by Donald Davis of Next.

Meantime, there are negotiations with manufacturers to turn the V & A's endless stock of design material into products, and to get the products marketed country-wide. V & A Enterprises is expected to stand or fall on its own marketing skills. A turnover of £800,000 expected in 1987/88 and no profits until the following year. Eventually there will be shops in department stores and in about 10 tourist centres around the country.

The Natural History Museum hired Terry Scowen-Gear from British Telecom as their corporate marketing consultant in April.

Last week he launched the Passport, an information card given to visitors in which advertising space is sold. He hopes it will make up to £70,000 towards the museum's projected £7/88 shortfall of £1.3 million. "My dream is to extend the Passport to include museums around the world: Russia, Moscow, France, Australia, America."

See Runyard, who has worked for both the V & A and the NHM, is setting up the Museum Development Unit in partnership with Hilary Blume of the Charities Advisory Trust. "We will be offering an initial consultancy free to any publicly funded museum," said Runyard, "and we hope that that will form the basis for further action by them rather than needing further lengthy consultancy."

Caroline Humby-Tock's Museums and Galleries of Great Britain has a mail order brochure this Christmas with a print run of 50,000 — selling diaries, scarves, jewellery, prints and so on for 98 pence. This year John Beale, creator of the Early Learning Centres, has also gone into the field with Past Times, a catalogue which offers almost anything from a tapestry kit based on a British Library hanging.

Simon Tait

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Whispering through the ground barrier

Will the new breed of super-quiet passenger jets draw the teeth of imminent anti-noise legislation?



Not hearing is believing: the British Aerospace 146 airliner

Dennis O'Dell, vice-president of Pacific Southwest Airline, has hardly stopped smiling since February 14, 1985. Even now the smile turns into a huge grin when he remembers the telephone call he received that day at his office in San Diego, California. The caller told him that the British Aerospace 146 jet his airline had just bought had landed at John Wayne, Orange County — America's most noise-conscious airport — at a decibel level so low it had fulfilled the most stringent noise reduction regulations yet devised.

"We were as surprised as anyone," he said. "But we proved conclusively that it is possible to have jets operating into built-up areas. That test blew the protesters right out of the water. The environmental groups want to put incredible restrictions on aircraft movements, but when the vast majority of people who want good air services find they are being affected, they will protest in their turn."

This view is shared by British airlines contemplating Government action within the next few weeks to tighten controls on aircraft noise. Michael Spicer, the Aviation Minister, who will be largely responsible for making the changes, has already bowed to what he sees as vital political interests. To avoid aircraft from Gatwick flying over Graveney Manor, a 16th century house that is now one of the most exclusive hotels in West Sussex, Spicer ordered all pilots to delay their turn on to a southerly heading.

The move delighted the hotel owner, Peter Herbert, but it infuriated residents of

East Grinstead who had to suffer the noise instead. Through their MP, Tim Raton, they bombarded Spicer's department with complaints. Now he has promised to force the jets into an even tighter flight path designed to miss both groups of noise protesters, a promise airlines say is nonsense because such pro-

"We are very sceptical about the quiet aircraft"

pose track-keeping is impossible with existing technology. Ironically, the demands for greater control of aircraft noise have reached a crescendo of their own just as airlines are embarking on massive investment in new aircraft which are quieter than those now in service.

But their efforts have had little effect on the views of the protesters in Britain. Recently Neil Matthews, chairman of the Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign, said:

"We have become very sceptical about the so-called quiet aircraft. They are not quiet at all. We know when we are disturbed by noise — especially at night — and we want a total ban on night-flying, regardless of the type of aircraft used."

But the British airlines say that if they are to invest huge sums of money in new equipment they must be able to use it more effectively — and that means extending the hours of night-flying. They believe that the new aircraft will not disturb sleep and want a chance to prove it.

Most people who live near airports are vehemently opposed to this suggestion, Matthews says. "It would be sick logic to use the improvement that has taken place as a reason for increasing the number of night flights. If life has become slightly better that is not a reason for the Government to make it worse."

Every country, and often every airport within a country, has different ways of measuring and controlling aircraft noise. And every international forum considering the problem has so far come up with a

different proposal. Some propose that all airlines be banned from buying existing "noisy" jets from 1990 and be banned from using them after 1995. Others want to delay a total ban until 2012 because of the massive costs involved.

There is now so much confusion that the International Civil Aviation Organization — the body responsible for laying down international standards — has decided to postpone all further consideration of the noise control measures until 1988.

At the beginning of last year, however, the authorities at John Wayne installed nine noise monitoring units and displayed them publicly so that locals could see what noise the aircraft made. Then the authorities ruled that no aircraft which registered more than 86dB could use the landing strip without penalty or control. They hoped that this would "trap" all the commercial jets yet allow the light aircraft and business jets to continue operating.

Harvey Elliott

It did not work that way, for when Dennis O'Dell's new BAe 146 flew in it was well below the 86dB limit. To have lowered the cut-off point still further would have meant that the dozens of private aircraft who would also have been caught. So they had no option but to allow the 146 to fly in.

Now it dominates the internal air routes and rival airlines — such as Air Cal, which is based at John Wayne — have also bought the 146. PSA and Air Cal's operations with the BAe 146 have proved so successful that last week US Air bought PSA and American Airlines took over Air Cal, promising to keep their operations intact.

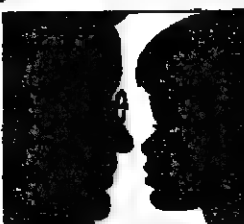
Michael Spicer has seen for himself the benefits of the new quiet aircraft. The question now is whether he can find a way to pacify the protesters by appearing to get tough on noise and at the same time avoid crippling the airlines.

Harvey Elliott

Happily, your help could make all the difference between a healthy old age and infirmity

Contrary to popular thought, infirmity is not an inevitable result of old age. Indeed, medical research is today coming to terms with more and more traditional elderly ailments like senile dementia, incontinence, wasted muscles, fragile bones, hypothermia and loss of taste.

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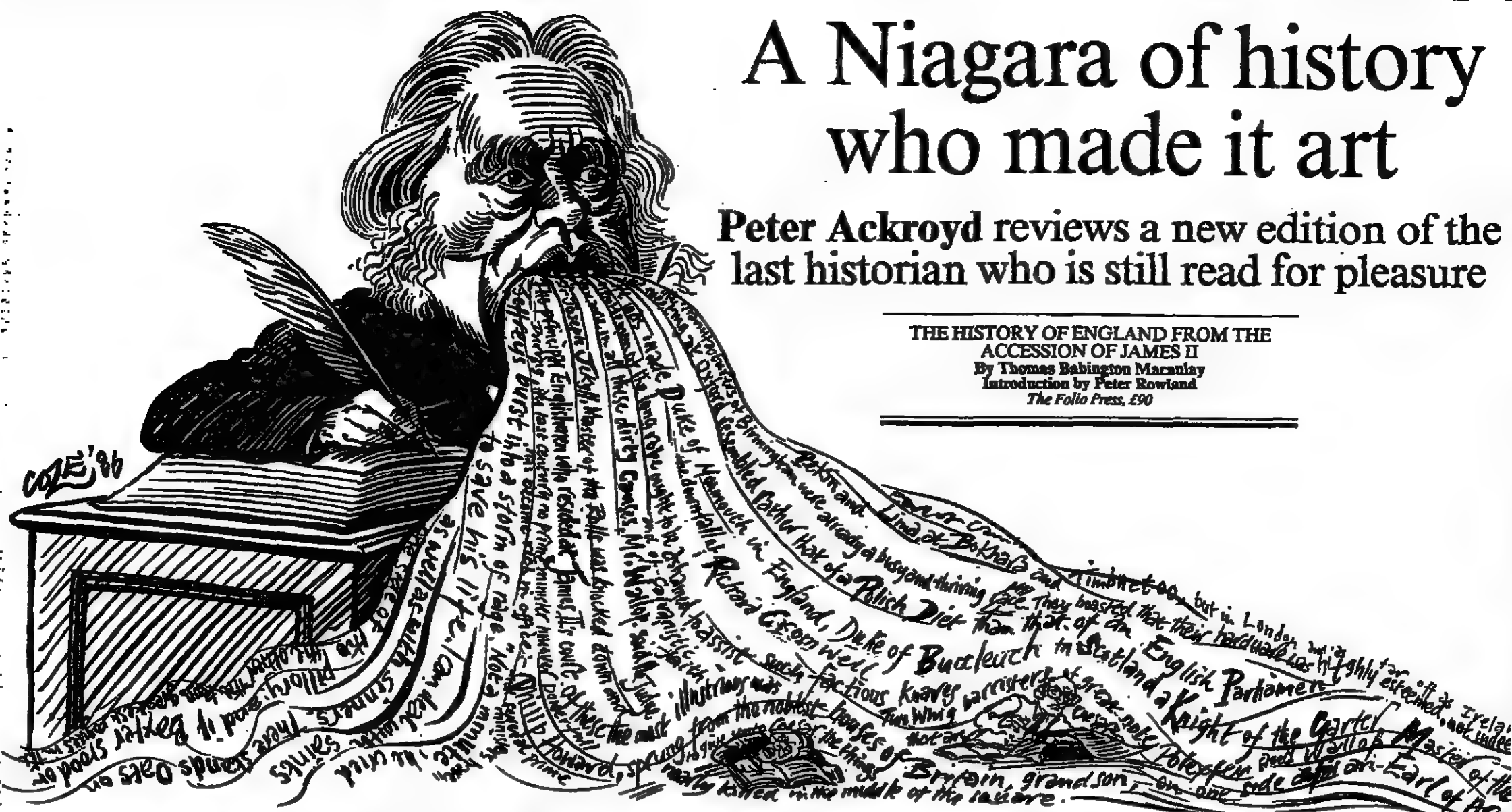
Tropical Law Reports

Football, and racing news selected on page 33.

BOOKS

A Niagara of history who made it art

Peter Ackroyd reviews a new edition of the last historian who is still read for pleasure

THE HISTORY OF ENGLAND FROM THE
ACCESSION OF JAMES II
By Thomas Babington Macaulay
Introduction by Peter Rowland
The Folio Press, £90

He had thought, Macaulay wrote, "that the book would have a permanent place in our literature." And so it has proved, even on the most literal test: this *History* has never been out of print. But his ambition is not one that most contemporary historians would share — few of them seem to know enough about "literature" to want to attach themselves to it; but even the more enlightened would prefer to claim some connection with "knowledge" instead. As for the idea of "duty" or of "mission", two words which Peter Rowland uses in his excellent introduction to this new edition, they would be laughed right out of court. Perhaps that is why modern history is now generally read only by other historians.

Macaulay's audience was rather larger, and when he finished the first two volumes of his work in 1848, the street outside his publisher's office was jammed with the carriages of booksellers waiting to purchase them. One contemporary critic said that he and Dickens

were the two most popular authors of the age, and, just to prove that literature can also pay, he has been described as "the first literary millionaire". That success is the more remarkable when you consider that of all generations, the mid-Victorian is the one which could most justifiably have dispensed with any national past. There was so prosperous and mighty a civilization that they could have treated the Elizabethans or the Stuarts with the same irony that led Charles Dickens to label one of the false books in his library *The Wisdom of Our Ancestors* (among the subtitles of this compendious volume were "Ignorance" and "Superstition").

But even if they did not choose to applaud their ancestors, they wished to understand them, no doubt on the unstated principle that a nation without an historical sense is a nation without identity. So in our own time historical research has become specialized only at a great cost: most school-children seem to think that anything before Harold Wilson is lost

in the mists of time.

Of course it might be said that Macaulay is great precisely because he lived before the age of "professional" historical research, that he was untouched by various statistical, textual, or demographic enquiries. But this is to miss the point. He knew quite enough about statistics in what was, in any case, a great age of Commissions and Reports — after all, he helped to draft legal and educational legislation for India.

But he understood that history required another kind of understanding, and could be written successfully only on quite different principles. He realized that facts alone do not persuade, and that evidence by itself cannot enlighten; only good prose can achieve both those ends. He was not providing some chimerical "objectivity" or "scientific explanation": he set himself the task of interpreting the past in a certain definite way, and he did so with all the rich and eloquent

resources of his literary art.

One of the differences between his age and our own is that the Victorians had a belief in, and appetite for, certain kinds of permanent or invariable truth. So it is that Macaulay constructed a Whig interpretation of English history in which the steady consolidation of parliamentary government is also seen as a slow progress towards the light. But, more importantly, he suggested an organic view of history in which past and present were part of a general movement forward — a movement towards power, stability, social harmony, and national benevolence, in which fertile soil grew certain "moral virtues" that protected the weak, and tempered the aggression of the strong. This was his vision, and he offered it to his contemporaries in a language which, with its rich syntactical insistence and its causal progress, offered a simulacrum of the very order he was in the process of celebrating.

This is not to suggest that Macaulay was an incompetent

amateur when it came to the more pedestrian aspects of the historian's work. He studied most of the available sources.

As Thackeray said of him, "He reads twenty books to write a sentence; he travels a hundred miles to make a line of description." But the "facts" and the "evidence" became part of a larger pattern, and had no real meaning outside it. Of course this is also true of even the most apparently dispassionate histories: I have never read an historical work which did not tell me more about the historian than about the period he purported to describe.

But the success of Macaulay's *History* was not established simply upon its ability to confirm certain Victorian habits of thought. For in another sense he was a great innovator, and this principally in the realm of the historical imagination. He saw the past, and his great gift was to evoke that past so that his readers could see it too. The chapter of this work in which he

describes "The State of England in 1685" is unrivalled as a sustained act of imaginative recreation; it is written in the same spirit as, but in some ways superior to, the historical fictions of Charles Dickens or Bulwer Lytton.

The point is that Macaulay belongs in the same company. His concern was to give "to truth those attractions which have been usurped by fiction", and he was delighted when his friends remarked that his *History* was "as entertaining as a novel". The modern professional historian might not wish to claim a similar success: but so much the worse for him. It is only by reanimating the past that it can properly be understood; and for that reason, if for no other, historical writing at its best is a form of literary enquiry. Surely every historian wishes to carry conviction? Macaulay understood that simple point, which is why his *History* has survived where a thousand superficially more "accurate" works have been forgotten.

A Sport of Crooks

CRIME

Marcel Berlins

DEADLY ODDS
Edited by Richard
Peyton
Sovereign Press, £12.95

Satisfyingly bulky collection of crime and mystery short stories about horse-racing. A well-balanced mix, American and English, including the obvious (Dick Francis), the surprising (Kipling), and the obscure. Peyton has unearthed some splendid stories by forgotten scribes, and some unusual ones by eminent crime writers not usually known for their devotion to the turf.

● Moonspender, by Jonathan Gash (Collins, £8.95). Lovejoy in his usual exuberant mixture of antique fakery, lechery, and murder, with an exquisitely funny appearance on TV thrown in. A smashing read, with one close friend confessing to a dialogue, and bits of business get sparker and more confident, plots are becoming unnecessarily tangled and obscure.

● Elegy for a Soprano, by Kay Nolte Smith (Severn House, £8.95). Cop's widow discovers real mother to be superstar singer. The diva is poisoned, all her close friends confess, and the daughter inquires into both the crime and her new-found mama's past. A little earnest, but a good solution, rooted in long-ago secrets.

● Reel Murder, by Marian Babson (Collins, £8.95). Deliciously witty tale of two ancient Hollywood stars coping with rediscovery and homicide on a trip to London. Tart, bitchy and amusing throughout, with the old shtetl knocking spots off the young pretenders.

● Saratoga Swimmer, by Stephen Dobyns (Allison & Busby, £9.95). The endearing ex-cop Charlie Bradshaw, now head of a Saratoga racing stable's security, reluctantly investigates his boss's swimming-pool shooting. Exciting, well-plotted, and the spot-on atmosphere of a small racing town, its usually down-at-heel characters and its petty corruption.

Murder Off Miami. The Malinsey Massacre. Here-with the Cines, and Who Killed Robert Prentice?, all by Dennis Wheatley (Webb & Bower and Michael Joseph, £9.95 each). Enjoyable 1930s-style solve-your-own-mystery kits complete with scene-of-crime photos, official files, scraps of confessions, clue-filled correspondence, and, essentially, sensible solutions. Given the contrived exigencies of the format and the overriding objective to provide fun, the plots aren't half bad either.

Tropical Law Reports

Basil Boothroyd

TALES FROM A
PALM COURT
By Ronnie Knox Mawer
Sovereign Press, £9.95

Judges, so far as I know, are not on oath. I hope nevertheless that Judge Knox Mawer, in these 30 or so startling episodes from his judicial career in far-flung crannies of the Commonwealth, is telling nothing but the truth. Comic writers, even recounting comical facts acceptably credible, can find extra embellishments hard to resist. We can accept that on the Micronesian speck of Nomo Island, the author sat in judgment in a case of carless driving by ox cart: even that the ox was produced in evidence and made menacingly for the bench. Credulity is stretched when His Honour removes his scarlet robe and plays the best, maddest fashion, into baffled retreat.

And will he assure me (on his honour), that the lady's suspender belt, worn to ensure the security of unwrinkled official black stockings, gave way during prayers at the Assize Service in Fahlit, so that his stately exit was made with his stockings down and visibly trailing the belt?

If you say so, m'lud. Certainly m'lud.

Even allowing off for possible extravagances, the basic material is pretty funny, gaining handsomely from the running contrast between the majesty of the law, and its administration imposed upon remote cultures, where dissatisfied plaintiffs have to be held in contempt for petting the bench with mangoes.

Among my favourite charge-sheet items are Possessing a Coconut for use as an Offensive Weapon, and Illegal Belly Dancing contrary to the Sabbath Day Ordinance. Joy-Riding on the Post Office bicycle also comes high, partly, perhaps, because on that occasion Judge Knox Mawer was assisted on the bench by a talking parrot named Henry who — should that be which? — added his voice to the proceedings throughout.

Again, I take the author's unsworn evidence for that.

Racing, football, and yachting books selected on page 33.

Bacon cuisine

Victoria
GlendinningELINOR
FETIPLACE'S
RECIPE BOOK
Elizabethan Country
House Cooking
By Hilary Spurling
Viking/Salamander, £12.95

Few cookery books are as important or as fascinating as this. Hilary Spurling's husband inherited from a great aunt a long-forgotten "small stout handwritten book", inscribed "Lady Elinor Fetiplace 1604." Lady Fetiplace, one of his forebears, had lived at Appleton Manor near Oxford; and this was her household manual, written out in an italic hand and "fine, clear, crinkly Shakespearian English." The recipes for "Tobacco Water" and "Serop of Tobacco" were given her by Sir Walter Raleigh himself.

Mrs Spurling has edited Lady Fetiplace's book, organizing the jumbled recipes into a calendar; many of them have traditional associations with a certain time of year, and the ingredients used by Lady Fetiplace would have been those seasonably available.

Her scholarly and practical skills combined make the book much more than an antiquarian curiosity. It is a cookery book to use. Elinor Fetiplace's cooking was simple and sophisticated, nearer to today's light French cuisine than to the floury sauces and stews of "traditional" British fare. But she is English in her obvious interest in preserves, jams, fruit cheeses, and biscuits. If her tendency to favour everything with rosewater seems outlandish, her bread-and-butter puddings are reassuringly familiar. The richest of these is "The Lord of Devonshire his Pudding", full of dates, raisins, and cream.

The book is a contribution to food history. Lady F. was making "meringues" — called "White Biskit Bread" — nearly a hundred years before the first known recipe for them. It is also a contribution to social history; she was in charge of the well-being of large numbers of dependants, and collected recipes for household remedies and medicines, some of them still useful, such as the remedy for nose-bleeds given her by Shakespeare's son-in-law. Flea-powder, rat poison, weedkiller, soap, and toothpaste were all made at home. She clearly acted as apothecary as well as "For the Fashion of the Harts" she sent the patient to bed with a posset of Boyled Marigoldes and sugar. Macaulay such as this were recycled, added to and passed down from old wife to young wife over generations. There is a residual medieval superstition in the inclusion of crushed seed pearls and gold leaf in a recipe for Spanish "marmelade", "optional extras" even in 1604. As "the latest wife in the chain" Mrs Spurling has done a marvellous job.

The idea that women are mad commands itself to many men. Ask any barman. It has a very respectable literary pedigree, too, stretching from Greek tragedy through Shakespeare to such modern masters as the 1986 Booker Prize winner. Sadly Anna's male characters have become increasingly prone to the feeble They Must Be Mad defence.

This week two comparative newcomers push men's concern with women's insanity into deeper waters. The protagonist of Jeremy Cooper's first novel is a young woman fighting a losing battle with psychosis. After a conventional middle-class childhood, Ruth Harrison suffers a complete mental collapse. Some say it's the price she's paying for being an exceptional artist. Her doctors incline towards a less romantic explanation, but agree on little else. Conflicting advice on treatment, coupled with the nature of her illness, produce for Ruth a decade of dizzying swings between stability and confusion, brave resistance and blind obedience to inner voices, optimism and despair.

Ruth is a very painful book to read, not least for its jarring contrasts. Ruth's perception of herself as a mad person who has to spend time with other mad people sits uneasily alongside the cosy tolerance of her friends. Somehow she remains lovable even when she has become a menace to those she loves.

It appears that "Ruth" is based on events in the author's life. I am not sure why Mr Cooper (or his publishers) have decided to tell us this, but it in no way diminishes his achievement.

Is she glad, bad, or mad?

FICTION

John Nicholson

RUTH
By Jeremy Cooper
Hutchinson, £9.95LOVING ROGER
By Tim Parks
Heinemann, £9.95TALES OF RAIN
AND SUNLIGHT
By José Sarama
Rez Collings, £12.95

What is impressive is not just the conviction with which he paints the world as seen by Ruth, but the fact he makes no attempt to manipulate our emotions. It is a remarkably controlled novel.

Tim Parks is another author with striking powers of imagination. His first novel, *Torques of Flame*, which won both the Betty Trask and Somerset Maugham awards, was narrated by a 15-year-old boy. For the narrative voice in *Loving Roger*, Mr Parks moves up the age range and

changes sex. Anna Eastwood is a 20-year-old typist at TT Printers, who lives with her parents in Ealing. Though not unattractive, Anna has never had a proper boyfriend. Her home-life is uneventful, her aspirations at work confined to subduing office Romeos — until the new typesetting exact arrives.

Anna is a pushover for Roger Cruikshank from the moment he confesses that he lied on the job application form. Roger is a Cambridge man, with interesting ambitions, and a car. Of course there's a downside. He tries to get Anna to read T.S. Eliot and J.K. Galbraith when she would rather be in bed with him. Then there's his reluctance to let her stay the night (is it really the landlady who's against it?) and his flat refusal to come and live with her, even though she offers to support him while he writes his plays.

Roger is actually a bit of a pain. 50 years ago he'd have become a Russian Spy. Now he just reads *The Guardian* and gives Anna a hard time. Until, more or less simultaneously, he goes to America on business and she discovers she is pregnant. Then Anna's world starts to unravel and Roger ends up dead on her new blue rug. Another very accomplished performance.

Tales of Rain and Sunlight is unlikely to win José Sarama any prizes. Being President of Brazil must be some consolation, though, and I imagine he will be well satisfied with the contribution that this collection of bloodthirsty, primitive tales will make towards publishing the macho, bandit history of his native Maranhão.



SATURDAY

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Subject
Classification
Author
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Publisher
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Hardcover/
Paperback
price
ISBN (hc & pb)
Publication Date

Theatre and cinema
Allen, Martin Particular Friendships
Faber, 79pp, £3.95, 0 571 1437 X, 171/86.
Bernoff, Steven Kewich and Acapulco
Faber, 60pp, £1.95/Cand9.95, 0 571 14384 1, 171/86.
Callaghan, Tug John Ford: The man and his films
California UP, 372pp, illus, \$35, 0 520 05997 3.
Eggs, David The Bay at Nice and Wrecked Eggs
Faber, 22pp, £2.95/£5.95, 0 571 14384 3, 171/86.
Faber, Daphne The Singing Detective
Faber, 299pp, £9.95 (hardcover), £4.95/£9.95 (paperback), 0 571 14381 7 (hc), 0 571 14390 6 (pb), 171/86.
Stoppard, Tom, adapted from Arthur Schnitzler
Dulland and Undiscovered Country
Faber, 147pp, £8.95 (hardcover), £4.95/£8.95 (paperback), 0 571 14730 X (hc), 0 571 14730 Y (pb), 171/86.

The power and the glory of the Street of Shame

Louis Heren

MARKET FOR
GLORY
Fleet Street Ownership
in the 20th Century
By Simon Jenkins
Faber, £9.95

Mr Jenkins, the former editor of the *Evening Standard*, claims that the British national press is no ordinary industry. For a start, the grotesquely inflated labour costs of Fleet Street would have ruined other industries, but it has survived more or less intact.

The credit is awarded to proprietors who have been happy, indeed eager, to derive non-pecuniary returns from owning newspapers. They have been ready to lose



Glory-hunters of the Ink Trade: Roy Thomson, Northcliffe, Beaverbrook, Murdoch

millions of pounds for fame, honour, access to power, or just being part of the excitement of newspaper production; hence the title of this fascinating book.

Northcliffe hungered for all four; and Baldwin condemned Rothermere and Beaverbrook for aiming at "power without responsibility" — the prerogative

of the hardy throughout the ages. In fact, they did not achieve power, and the newspapers which exerted the most influence were not proprietors but editors, such as Geoffrey Dawson.

This has not stopped rich men from entering the market for glory, and huge financial losses have not reduced the

number of titles. Three have disappeared since 1960, but have been replaced by three new ones. In theory the new printing technology should make glory-seeking proprietors as well as printers redundant.

As Lord Goodman, former chairman of *The Observer* and of the NPA (Newspaper Pub-

lishers Association), told the 1977 Royal Commission with his characteristic irony, "some of the greatest moral courage displayed by newspapers has been a readiness to capitulate." Besides, the new proprietors of the *Express*, *Mirror* and *Telegraph* are finding, as so many had before, that running newspapers can be fascinating.

It seems that such men will long be with us, and Mr Jenkins rightly concludes that they are preferable to public subsidy. The obstacles to journalists performing their "constitutional function" — to scrutinize, criticize, embarrass, and, in the final analysis, even undermine the powers that be — are severe enough without the added handicap of cash limits and Treasury monitoring.

TLS Listings

Place a firm order with your newsagent now!



THE TIMES DIARY

Biffen's bloomer?

A very top tongue slipped in a Commons committee-room on Tuesday night. Turning down a request by the select committee on procedure for a debate on proposed procedural changes, John Biffen, the Leader of the House, said there was little point in MPs considering radical alterations "in the last few months of this Parliament". Not surprisingly, he put up like a clam when excited MPs tried to get him to say more.

Disestablished

Dublin's *Irish Times* — no relation — has chosen a new editor. Conor Brady, a journalist in his forties, succeeds the veteran Douglas Gageby, who moved the paper in tune with a changing Ireland, from its erstwhile role as a bastion of the Anglo-Irish establishment to a position now more identified with the modern values of the republic. In recent years the paper has developed a reputation for liberalism and has confronted several internal scandals connected with the security forces. Significantly, Brady becomes the first Roman Catholic to grace the editor's chair. He is the son of a former senior police officer.

Knight line

Gossip reaches me from Westminster that Ernest Saunders, the chairman of Guinness popularly known as "Deadly Ernest", was down for a knighthood in the New Year's honours list. Tories are now wondering whether, in view of the investigation into the company's takeover practices, the unfortunate Saunders will have his name scratched out again.



Living words

The doctor-poet Dannie Abse was delighted to find that copies of his new book, *Journals from the Arm Heap*, a selection of personal articles, appeared to have sold out at a big London bookshop — until on inquiry an assistant pointed him to the Natural History stack bulging with his *oeuvre*.

Unfuzzed

A little local difficulty at Walthamstow police station, in north-east London. Constable Sukhvinder Paul Singh Chohan has abandoned his police issue turban for short back and sides and regulation helmet. Far from rejoicing, his seniors, I understand, are none too pleased. A Sikh who loses his hair loses face (so to speak) within his community, and they fear that Chohan's decision — taken, he says, "because I want to be part of the team" — may affect the Met's attempts to recruit more Sikhs.

Big game hunt

Game show graduates are the latest phenomenon in the States. In Los Angeles, a three-hour game show co-ordinator Mark Richard, teaching aspirant gamblers the art of passing auditions for the big money TV quiz shows. A mere \$45 primes students on how to exchange banalities with their future TV inquisitors. I reckon some White House staff could take remedial lessons.

Old script

Let us hope for actor Ian Fintoff's sake that life does not imitate art. Fintoff, who has been selected by Labour to fight Devonport against David Owen, made his last appearance on stage in *A Pack of Lies*.

Home ground

Newham North East Labour party should watch out. For the next election, the Tories have just picked Peter Davis, head of home affairs at Central Office and the brains behind the blitz on "looney left" councils. One of Davis's main targets? Newham council, where Labour holds every seat.

Zero interest

Wildlife artist David Shepherd has devised a novel competition: he is inviting people to compete for the world record (first ever) for doing absolutely nothing. He believes that few people can remain immobile for more than four or five minutes, sitting on a stool before an audience and panel of judges. He has a motive, of course: to draw attention to the authorities all over the world who are doing nothing to save the rhino and other endangered species.

IBA's advertising conundrum

Winston Fletcher finds that the decisions on what is or is not political are puzzling

ity as respects matters of political or industrial controversy or relating to current public policy.)

In the past the IBA has tended to apply Clause 9 rigorously, perhaps too rigorously. It once stopped *The Spectator* from advertising on television on the ground that it was a political publication. But of late its interpretation of Clause 9 seems to have softened. And in every case, doubtless inadvertently, the interpretations have favoured the government.

For example, it is hard to think of an issue more embroiled in political controversy than the future of nuclear energy. The IBA claims that British Nuclear Fuels' advertising merely promoted the company and invited people to visit Sellafield, so was non-political. How then can the authority reject a Greenpeace advertisement that simply pointed out that Chernobyl, before the explosion,

would have looked equally innocuous to visitors?

Or take another example. The government has just spent £8,000,000 on television promoting its Action For Jobs campaign. The unequivocal message is that the government is now actively dealing with unemployment — the issue that is far and away of greatest concern to the electorate. The Tories are themselves using Action For Jobs in their publicity, to show they have not turned a blind eye to the unemployed. Yet the IBA deems Action For Jobs advertising apolitical.

The most contentious campaigns of all, in terms of long-term political impact, must be those for privatization. British Telecom spent £16 million in 1984 on its corporate advertising. British Gas in its pre-floation and floation marketing spent £41 million, of which a large proportion went to television. All the major privatizations have of course been over-

subscribed. If BT, or the TSB, or British Gas had simply sought a straightforward public flotation it would have been unnecessary to seek such massive shareholdings, grossly wasteful to spend so many millions, and unnecessary to use television advertising.

It is not too fanciful to suggest that by next spring, when election time is nigh, there will be an army of some 10,000,000 new shareholders, an army that could not have been raised without television advertising.

Nor is it fanciful to suggest that the votes of this army of novitiate shareholders will be influenced by the fear that Labour might reclaim their share certificates. Nor, finally, is it fanciful to suggest that the government knows all this, which is why the corporations being privatized spent such vast sums on television advertising.

When is a political advertisement not a political advertisement? If influencing voting behaviour is not political, what is?

The author is a director of the advertising agency Delaney Fletcher Delaney.

Roger Boyes on the weakness underlying the Polish regime's new line

Warsaw Martial law is to law what martial music is to music: a distant, embarrassing cousin, brassy and over-loud, best forgotten. The Poles, despite their love of anniversaries, are trying not to remember that five years ago, on a raw December weekend, they were occupied by their own army, the legal niceties subordinated to the needs of a military timetable.

The images return anyway: the frozen military patrols gathered around braziers; the curfew that abbreviated the days; the mechanical voice superimposed on telephone calls. "This conversation is being controlled"; the sudden disappearance not only of Solidarity's leaders but of those on the fringes of the movement; the hunger for information in a heavily-censored world.

Things are better now, of course; it could hardly be otherwise. There have been no Solidarity prisoners since September; the discordant clangour of martial law has disappeared; there is washing powder in the shops again and, for a price, oranges. Visitors to Warsaw are still a little surprised not to see Soviet tanks in the streets.

Martial law had two functions: to crush Solidarity and any direct competition to the communist party, and to allow General Jaruzelski to outflank the anti-reformist old guard in the state apparatus. The idea was to regain control over the pace of change.

It became clear to Jaruzelski's civilian advisers that there must be a post-Solidarity strategy. The legislative underpinning of economic reform — giving factories more independence and workers a greater say in management, and trying to make the economy profitable — was put into place. Prices, initially under the cover of martial law, were repeatedly increased without the government tumbling; that was taken as a sign of a return to normal. But the reform has made no major impact on the economy; what improvements there have been are the result more of random factors.

The most difficult and pressing problem is that of political change. As martial law was gradually dismantled, political concessions were at best timid: the cautious possibility, for example, for multiple candidates to stand in local council elections. Big gestures, such as the 1984 amnesty for political prisoners, were more a result of pressure than generosity. The amnesty did not seem to fit into any kind of programme: there were no moves to find new means of expression.

After suffering for years from muddled management, Poland is suddenly exposed to the changes now being pushed through in the Soviet Union intended to adapt the economy and, to a lesser extent, party policy, to the conditions of the late 20th century.

The Soviet Communist Party is having to prove itself by providing efficient managers, explaining itself more coherently and opening itself to criticism from outside the party. In Hungary, which is about to embark on a fresh stage in its mature and genuine economic reform, some thought is being given to the relationship between economic and political change. Poland has, fortuitously, reached the right position at the right time: it is brimming with ideas that

Jaruzelski's critics get an uneasy taste of freedom



would, under different circumstances, be called pluralism.

Union pluralism — that is, letting several unions operate — is ruled out because it would give a platform to Solidarity. Political pluralism — allowing anything that might resemble a party — would be an unacceptable challenge to the communists. But within these frontiers there is a grey zone which can be exploited.

The latest development is the formation of a social consultative council grouping 56 advisers (one was a counsel to Lech Walesa, others are outspoken champions of academic freedom, some are economic reformers) who have a licence to criticize the Polish leadership publicly.

Early next year, the authorities will establish a civil-rights ombudsman to protect citizens against bureaucratic abuse. The censor, in a recent interview with *The Times*, suggested that the boundaries of printed discussion would be relaxed. A new magazine, *Res Publica*, will try to create a forum for writers who would otherwise publish underground.

Alexander Krawczuk, the new Minister for Culture, wants to lure Polish artists and writers, currently working abroad or for underground publications, back into the mainstream. A sign of the times is that Tadeusz Konwicki, the novelist, is officially publishing a book for the first time in many years.

Poland is ahead of the rest of the bloc but all will soon have to consider something similar. An accommodation has to be reached between the needs of a modern, differentiated society and the demands of a monopolistic state. In Hungary there is talk of reform clubs — discussion centres in which malcontents could be

openly critical. Even in glacial Czechoslovakia the press has been allowed to attack inefficient factory directors and lazy officials.

But the imposition of martial law has left people suspicious. Although Jaruzelski claims to be implementing the slogan of Hungary's Kadar, "He who is not against us is with us", the parallels with Hungary are slight. After the Soviet crushing of the 1956 uprising, there followed five years of repression and then a very slow liberalization. Under these circumstances it was not difficult to secure the compliance of society and eventually to strike a bargain whereby Hungarians muzzle their political aspirations in return for economic prosperity (an exchange, it is said, of body for soul).

Jaruzelski acted against Solidarity only after 16 months, during which time a generation of Poles came to think that socialism could and would be overhauled. Nothing now on offer will ever measure up to the expectations of those to whom Solidarity was the ideal.

Most importantly, the current attempts at political diversification are not a logical consequence of a successful economic reform but rather a way of letting off steam before a fresh round of price rises and austerity moves.

Attempts to pluralize communism are thus born out of weakness rather than strength. Jaruzelski needs safety valves because he fears that the engine might become overheated. The social council is a typical contrivance of the post-martial-law era, simultaneously clever and irrelevant. Intellectuals are unhappy, so rather than put them in jail, give them access to the party leader: institutionalized access.

This fulfils several functions. It

ensures that the opposition is denied their brain power; it keeps the communist leadership informed about social currents; it keeps the party on its toes. And if all goes well, it splits the opposition into realists — those willing to talk to the authorities — and those unwilling to compromise. Of course, the council will enrich public debate, and that is why many respectable and respected people have joined it, despite fierce criticism from Solidarity theorists such as Adam Michnik.

But the council is also an admission of failure: why is parliament not fulfilling the role of this council? Or the Patriotic Front organization set up specifically to promote dialogue between communists and non-communists? Or the myriad other public committees which report to parliament? Instead of trying to make existing institutions more effective, Jaruzelski is creating new institutions: this too is a hallmark of the post-Solidarity period.

Some prominent dissidents, unconcerned whether the new policies are the result of conviction or weakness, are ready to exploit the cracks now opening up. Opportunism, they argue, should not be the monopoly of those in power. But the changes can be rolled back at any time. If few Poles seem interested in the new ideas, then Jaruzelski has *carte blanche* to impose unpopular decisions — a wage freeze, say — with the old methods, threatening force rather than engaging in elaborate persuasion. Martial law will not be imposed a second time but the present focus on pluralism in a communist state may prove to be little more than an interesting but short-lived interlude in Poland's jagged crisis-prone history of the past 40 years.

Ronald Butt

The pulpit and the individual

If recent precedent is anything to go by, sermons will be preached from pulpits all over the country this Christmas on social justice, inner cities, the nuclear bomb and aid for the Third World. All neatly pinned to a text appropriate to the festival. The preaching will be well-intended. The poor, like the persecuted, are of course a Christian cause; nobody could think otherwise, whether judging from the New Testament or the tradition of the church.

But between the lines of much of the preaching there will be a set of assumptions resting on the proposition that what should concern us most is the moral guilt of a society so obsessed with materialism that it is failing to take collective social action. Congregations are less likely to receive a message illuminating the responsibility of the individual.

To find this a great failing is not to say that morality can only be individual. The extreme individualism who enjoy asserting that there is no such thing as collective morality, and that morality is by its nature individual, undermine their own cause. Their dogmatism is an understandable reaction against the opposite and prevailing dogmatism which works on the assumption that the only real morality is collective, and that the state, or the community, is its guardian.

But the counter-heresy of the individual as the exclusive source of moral responsibility and of the state as properly responsible for no more than defence, law and order and help for those at the bottom of the pile, is equally fallacious. Since the beginning of our civilization, communities have tried through their governments to provide remedies for social ills and grievances. As well as humanity has shared if limited conscience, as well as the consciences of individuals, and it rightly leads to collective action to help the poor and protect the vulnerable.

Yet the duties of the community are commonly preached with much more extended implications than this. It will be assumed that the state should spend on good causes but nothing will be said about how the money for spending is to be made.

The materialism of a consumer society will be denounced but not defined. Yet some of the excesses of silly materialism arise precisely because the state leaves the individual no scope for providing for the serious things that matter to every family, and materialism has also improved the lot of everyone, including the poor.

Above all, the failure of the church is to be so preoccupied with the conscience of society as to seem to forget that the conscience of the individual, which may have to be invoked against society, is the ultimate arbiter of human behaviour. There is a failure to

offer clear and uncompromising guidelines for the behaviour of individuals who in the aggregate determine the nature of a society. The church often seems too preoccupied with the consequences of problems than with their prevention.

It agonizes about whether to remarry divorced people in church but can seldom be heard preaching the indissolubility of marriage or responsibility of the individual to preserve it. It speaks of equal opportunities and worries about women priests. But would it dare to assert that mothers have no higher responsibility than to give their own time, if they possibly can, to look after their own children in their homes? (To the angry feminists' protest, Why not the father? My reply is, All right, but he usually isn't so good at it.)

Similar questions have lain at the heart of our difficulties with industrial relations. The trade unionist's undeniable right to withhold his labour as a safeguard against exploitation has been perverted into a claim to do work uneconomically, even to be paid for doing non-jobs which is a fraud against society as a whole and the poor, just as much as "insider" trading cheats shareholders.

Some of these economic truths have been learned in recent years, yet it does not seem that it has infused the clergy with a revived interest in preaching the responsibility of the individual. Now, however, the threat of Aids offers them a new reminder that their business is with individual conduct, and with trying to move individuals' hearts and minds.

There is an argument that the communication of this disease is principally to do with promiscuity as such, heterosexual as well as homosexual, rather than being especially, though not exclusively, passed by practices which are more usually homosexual. The evidence does not seem entirely clear. But what is not in doubt is that it has initially been conveyed to the West principally by practices which until now have been regarded as morally wrong but which, in the prevailing climate of relativism, even the churches have feared to censure; and that it spreads by promiscuity of all sorts.

Yet what human society has ever lived without its rules and taboos — usually based on some perfectly rational distinction between the clean and the unclean — and without some absolutes? Our society has asserted that there are no taboos and no absolutes but only human convenience, and the churches have tried to live with the damage as best they can.

If they really wish to be heard attentively they will have to speak again to the individual with whom, as the facts of life are increasingly teaching us in many more matters than Aids, ultimate responsibility really lies.

moreover... Miles Kington

Sinless songs of Patpong Road

"We may be a lot poorer than Thailand," a Burmese told me, "but at least we're not the harem of the East."

Yes, Thailand has certainly gained the reputation of being a place where every sexual whim can be gratified in almost any currency along the wicked Patpong Road in old Bangkok. I had never been to Bangkok before. I might never go there again. So it seemed pretty important to me that in my one night there I should do something exciting which had nothing remotely to do with sex. And in the Thai Airlines in-flight magazine *Sawasdee* — which I have to say is the only airline magazine I have found worth taking from the plane — I came across a piece on jazz in Bangkok which seemed to offer a solution.

"Where can I find Bobby's Army?" I asked the hotel clerk, showing him the article. He looked up the address.

"It is at the First Floor, The Car Park, Patpong Road," he said. An unlikely address for a jazz pub, halfway up a car park in the vice street of Bangkok, and indeed none of the people who stopped to help us in Patpong Road knew about the car park. None of them cared about it, either. They were far more interested in getting us into clubs where we could see girls do most amazing things with their anatomy, and occasionally, as we walked down the road, doors would swing open to reveal girls on stage doing amazing things, while simultaneously achieving a look of boredom.

"Sir, sir, come inside and see a woman with a fish," implored one impresario.

"Sorry, it's too degrading," said my colleague. "For the fish," I explained to the puzzled Thai. "Can you imagine what it's like for a fish to go home at the weekend and tell his family he's in a double act with a woman?" "That's disgusting," they'd say. "Well, the money's good," the fish would mumble, "and I hope to go solo soon; I've got this little backing band I'm rehearsing with..."

The Thai obviously saw what we were getting at because he relented and showed us the way to the multi-storey car park and there on the first floor we pushed open a door marked Bobby's Pub and found ourselves, as magically as if in an old-fashioned mystery story, in a London pub full of polished

wood, beery smells and home-brewed jazz. Glasses of ale appeared at the ends of our hands and we sat down in front of the grand piano, which was a good place to sit because the piano had a foot-wide shelf built into it all round on which the customers could plonk their wallop, or wallop their plonk.

Almost everyone in the band was of a different nationality. There was an American guitarist, nearly inaudible, and a German banjoist, mercifully totally inaudible. The tenor saxophonist had a wrinkled Oriental smile and played nicely, the trumpeter was small and dark and reached for exciting high notes which he often hit, and sometimes thrillingly missed, and the clarinetist was the Australian defence attaché, by the name of Lachie Thomson. The leader was a very good trombonist, called Vic Luna, who sang like a Far Eastern Nat Gonella, and the whole effect was as if one had come across a bunch of Glenn Miller's boys having a night off.

They played tunes like *In The Mood*, *I'm Confessin'*, *Sheik of Araby* and *Chantanooga Choo Choo*, and several middle-aged white couples got up and jived as if the war would never end, and everyone clapped and cheered when Bobby, the owner, got up and sang *Don't You Come Home, Bill Bailey?* — which, having no tune or words in particular, is always a good song for an owner to sing. In London it would have been just a pub night, but there in Patpong Road I think it was the most innocent oasis in a wicked world that, I have ever come across.

In an odd sort of way, it was also very daring. In a street where strange sex is the norm, tapping your feet to the Australian defence attaché weaving his skillful way through *Christopher Columbus* must rank very nearly as kinky, or at least highly unconventional. See *Grown Men On Stage!* Watch as They Daringly Blow Through Tubes! Listen as They Grope for that Forbidden High C and Finally Take Part as They Parade Round the Club, Fully-Dressed, Playing *The Saints!*

And so we did, and then we came out into the cold reality of the concrete car park and the pub had vanished, just as they do in those mystery stories, leaving a nice warm glow behind. It still hasn't quite faded.

Eduardo Cue

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SACRED NO LONGER

This week's agreement by the EEC farm ministers has been widely welcomed. For the British Government it is an undoubted political coup. For those who share the view - vividly revealed in *The Times* in recent weeks - that the CAP has become a profligate affront to the European ideal, it offers grounds for praise as well as hope.

Several notes of caution are, however, in order before the agreement can truly be termed the first step on the road to reform. First, will the statesmen of Brussels be able to stand the heat of the hustings back home? It is not only the two million cows whose death warrants were signed in Brussels this week who will have cause to regret the agreement on dairy and beef policies.

The farmers will be more vocal than the cattle, opposition politicians perhaps more vocal than the farmers. The Irish government, in particular, risks paying a heavy penalty in next spring's elections for its responsible stance in Brussels.

Many EEC farmers who invested in cattle in the period - not long past - when they were being encouraged to do so will have real cause now to feel hard done by. When a policy is allowed to run out of hand because no-one has the courage to control it, putting matters right is going to hurt. Secondly, if the Brussels agreement is to herald a genuine return to a sane Community policy on agriculture, it

has to be realised that there is more pain unavoidably in store. If the two million cows are not to die in vain, the pressure has to be kept up.

The strategic decisions now taken should ensure that the stocks of butter and milk-powder stop growing, and prevent still larger mountains of beef carcasses. But that is not a certainty. The fertility of nature and the ingenuity of man are only too apt to burgeon in unforeseen ways, however carefully they seem to be pruned back.

Considerable celebrations were mounted in 1983, when public opinion was (like today) calling for progress on the CAP. A formula was reached which was proclaimed to solve the problem. It did not do so, and the joint curb now imposed on milk and beef will have to be closely monitored to see that it does not channel producers into building up other kinds of surplus. Sheep-farmers in Wales are already worried that cattle-farmers in milder climates may now turn to sheep-farming and undercut them.

The farm ministers do, none the less, deserve some congratulations. So do the governments that instructed them - particularly those, like the Irish and Germans, whose nerve might well have been sapped by the proximity of elections. And the British Government too deserves its full share of the credit. For Britain chaired the session, and without Mr Michael

Jopling's persistence in hanging on for a solution, the opportunity would almost certainly have slipped away.

Mrs Thatcher may have ruffled some feathers recently by her forthrightness, but the Community's leaders know that it was in a good cause. Unless the EEC can bring its agricultural subsidies under control, the Community will simply cease to be viable.

The Brussels negotiators still have to get down to working out what the decisions will mean to individual farmers. The compensations and inducements are said to be generous, but much will depend on how they are distributed. Quotas tend to be a clumsy instrument, but they seem to be the best available in the present crisis. It is not enough simply to crush the small producer and clear the field for the agricultural production-line. In principle, assistance to the weaker operators should be channelled through the regional and social funds, rather than the basic subsidy system.

The largest of the Community's food mountains by far is made of grain, not beef or butter. Finding a formula to control that must be a task for the Community under Belgian leadership, in the new year.

Whatever its limitations, the agreement reached this week shows that there is, after all, the goodwill in Europe to bring agricultural problems under control.

VIETNAM'S TIME OF TROUBLES

The honourable retirement of three gentlemen will past their seventieth birthdays would raise few eyebrows in most countries of the world. But when the country is Vietnam - a land where longevity in high office has become the norm - and when the new pensioners are that country's three most senior political leaders, superannuation takes on a different complexion.

The relegation to "advisory roles" of Communist Party General Secretary and head of state, Truong Chinh; of the Prime Minister, Pham Van Dong; and of a senior member of the Politburo, Le Duc Tho, removes from policy-making the closest surviving associates of Vietnam's legendary leader, Ho Chi Minh. It also ends a decade in which a unified Vietnam at peace with itself (if not with its neighbours) has been run by men more accustomed to running a war.

The passing of this triumvirate at Vietnam's delayed Communist Party Congress this week is a rare example of the congress - an institution common to the communist world as a whole - being used to renew the country's senior leadership without disgrace. Communist regimes, however, are not known for their disposition to sudden or thorough change of this kind, and it is a measure of the unhappy state of Vietnam 11 years after the communist victory that such radical measures were deemed

to be necessary. Certainly, there are few glimmers of hope in any area of Vietnamese life.

Agriculture is devastated; a sharp rise in the birth rate means there are more mouths to feed and food is short. Corruption and speculation surpass the levels reached in US-occupied Saigon. Vietnam's currency, devalued several times over, is almost worthless on the international market. Economic changes and counterchanges have confused the outlines of the permissible, as well as betraying conflicts within the leadership. Nor is outside aid forthcoming. Erstwhile friends - notably the Chinese and the United Nations - deserted when their beneficiary invaded neighbouring Cambodia.

Only the Soviet Union has stood by Vietnam for what were sound strategic reasons. But all the signs are that the Gorbachev leadership is at least as interested in the rational use of resources by its allies as it is in their revolutionary zeal and ideological purity. Moscow seems reluctant to underwrite Vietnamese mismanagement indefinitely, and Vietnamese leaders - to judge by their abject self-criticism and fulsome tributes to Soviet help in recent months - have been made well aware of this.

Changes in the thrust of Soviet foreign policy since Mr Gorbachev took office also

make Vietnam less of an asset than it was 10 years ago. Then, at loggerheads with China, Moscow needed its friendship with Vietnam. Now, with an improvement in relations with China in the forefront of Mr Gorbachev's foreign policy, the alliance with Vietnam is a liability. Only if Vietnam can be persuaded to withdraw from Cambodia - Peking's chief condition for improved relations with Moscow - could that liability be turned to advantage.

In recent months, as its economic and political situation has deteriorated, Vietnam has intimated a desire to end its international isolation. Its leaders, however, steeped in the legacy of Ho Chi Minh and in their years of combat against the French, the Americans and the Chinese, showed little appreciation of the link between their country's isolation and the presence of Vietnamese troops in Cambodia.

The hope must be that the change of leadership announced yesterday will foster the flexibility in Hanoi that has been lacking since the occupation of Cambodia nearly eight years ago. The Cambodia conundrum has been a focus of local and superpower tension in the Far East for too long, and the long-suffering people of Cambodia, and of Vietnam, could stand to benefit most of all.

A GRASS-ROOTS REBELLION

When people of influence fail to stand against malignant causes, ordinary men and women will found their own resistance movement. That is what is now happening in the London borough of Haringey.

A group of parents there is fighting against the extremists in charge of the local council who have been promoting "positive images" of homosexuals in schools. The campaign against which the Haringey parents are making their stand is not covert. The borough has funded a "lesbian and gay unit" to manage it. This unit employs what are called outreach workers whose function is to go into schools to identify and even encourage children whom they diagnose as homosexual. It wishes to put instruction about homosexual practices into sex education and offers in-service training to teachers.

A letter from the Lesbian and Gay Unit, on official Borough Council paper, was sent to all schools last June stating that "new council policy within the education service is that lesbian and gay issues be addressed with the same vigour and clarity as other areas of oppression." Stating that the council has established a fund for "curriculum projects" to promote "positive images" of homosexuals from nursery schools upwards, the letter

stated that members of the unit "are wanting to meet heads of educational establishments...to talk with them about their current practices with regard to lesbians and gays."

How many heads felt free to throw this into the waste-paper basket it is impossible to say. Perhaps quite a few. But they are also under pressure from outside the schools - and sometimes from within them - to advance the same cause. Some "gay" teachers, indeed, have angrily abused and picketed the parents who were protesting.

The parents allege that they have been subject to abuse, to vandalism in their homes, to death threats and to such unpleasant experiences as being spat and urinated on. Most of the parents are from working class backgrounds. Many are from the Asian or West Indian or Irish Roman Catholic Communities whose religious principles are deeply affronted by what is happening. A Muslim mother states that she has been told by a Labour Haringey councillor that the Koran and the Bible need up-dating - which is hardly the business of the Haringey Labour Party.

But how legitimate is the parents' concern about the character of the "positive images" campaign? A cartoon "text-book" called "The Play

Book for Kids about Sex", available from the unit, includes an introduction of small children to homosexual relationships and could even be construed as conditioning children for sexual abuse. From the children's shelves of a public library, a 15 year old school girl obtained a book which is simply homosexual pornography. And the campaign, as described by its own advocates, is designed to subject the school curriculum to homosexual proselytising.

As it happens, most of the protesting parents are Labour voters. But they have come to believe that their own party has become a cover for the anti-democratic left which abuses the education of their children to undermine the family and democracy.

None of this, of course, could happen but for political funding by local authorities. The Haringey mothers wrote to Mr Neil Kinnock but got a five-line letter from his office saying he could not intervene. They have taken the point. Today the House of Lords is debating a private member's bill, introduced by Lord Halsbury, which would seek to forbid local authorities from giving financial aid for the promotion of homosexuality. It is of riving interest to the mothers of Haringey.

Rights and wrongs on human rights

From Lord Scarman and others

Sir, In your leading article headed "Judging rights" (December 12) you express opposition to the Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms Bill which would enact as part of our law those provisions of the European Convention which set out the rights and freedoms protected by the Convention. You conclude that under existing law there is no evidence of risk to our liberties sufficient to justify subordinating our law to an overriding power of the judges to interpret the ringing abstract declarations of the Convention "at their own discretion."

Your conclusion, with respect, is unsound. It is eloquently worded but grossly flawed. First, there is plenty of evidence that existing British law is an insufficient protection of the liberties which by ratifying the Convention we have obliged ourselves in international law to protect. Your article admits as much in its third and fourth paragraphs.

Second, the Human Rights Bill, if enacted, would not subject us to a power of judges to interpret its provisions at their own discretion. Faced with the statute, our judges would have to interpret it - exactly as they have to interpret other statutes. Statutory interpretation is a recognised judicial process, not an exercise of arbitrary judicial power.

Third, the European Convention is not a series of "ringing abstract declarations". It was largely drafted by two English lawyers, one of whom was a skilled draftsman and the other later became a Lord Chancellor. Admittedly it is couched in the language of principle. But so are many important British statutes (do you recollect our own enacted Bill of Rights?).

Judges by their training in the common law are experienced in the development of principle. And they have no difficulty in distinguishing principle which is justiciable from policy which is not: do you recollect the approach of our judges (gently criticised in your columns, following the decision of the House of Lords in the GCHQ case) to the problem of national security?

May we ask you, Sir, to give the Human Rights Bill a fair wind as it seeks a passage through the uncertain waters of parliamentary scrutiny? Yours sincerely, SCARMAN, BROCKHURNE, EDWARD GARDNER, Rights Campaign, 60 Chandos Place, WC2.

From Professor Garth Netheim. Sir, Your leading article, "Judging rights" (December 12), indicates that the spirit of A. V. Dicey is still alive in the land. His writings late last century and early this century influenced generations of lawyers in the UK and elsewhere to the complacent belief that both "bills of rights" and "administrative law" were foreign aberrations, alien and unnecessary in lands blessed by the genius of the common law.

In regard to administrative law, one expert in relatively recent times was moved to write that "English administrative law has still not recovered from Dicey's denial of its existence". In the past

From Captain W. M. Douglas (Merchant Navy). Sir, As the British Merchant Navy moves into terminal decline it is reported in *The Times* today (late edition, December 11) that Mr J. Moore, Secretary of State for Transport, cannot offer incentives to maintain a viable fleet.

In the Government's lack of a shipping policy, many British seafarers do have sympathy for British shipowners operating under flags of convenience. However, at times of hostility such ships cannot be requisitioned by the British Government. What financial incentives will then have to be made to the owners to place these ships under British Government control?

I and many of my British colleagues, finding employment under foreign flags would like to ask where we stand. In times of hostilities and an expanded merchant fleet, will our employment be based upon "market forces" or conscription? Yours faithfully, W. M. DOUGLAS, Croftside, Beechen Cliff Road, Bath, Avon, December 11.

From Mr Ralph Hoarau. Sir, I refer to your article, "Murder in terrorist backlash" (November 26), concerning the coroner's report on the assassination of the exiled Seychelles leader, Mr Gerard Hoarau. Summing up his report, the coroner, Dr David Paul, said:

This was the evil backlash of terrorist activity which involved people living in this country but was not the concern of citizens of this country.

My brother, now revered as a national hero by the Seychelles people, was an advocate of peace who was campaigning vigorously, with the support of the majority of the Seychelles, for the return of peace, democracy and justice in Seychelles.

30 years it has recovered, due in large part to the far-sighted efforts of some notable British judges, such that you are able to speak of "the welcome increase in the citizen's ability to challenge administrative decisions by the judicial review procedure". But the Dicey legacy still seems to prevail in any discussion of proposals for enhanced protection of human rights.

You also note that the UK "leads the other 20 members of the Council of Europe both in the number of complaints laid against it in Strasbourg and in the number of occasions on which the European Court of Human Rights has judged it guilty of a breach of the Convention". You explain this record by noting that the UK lacks a national forum in which issues of violation of the Convention can be aired.

With respect, surely what is significant is the fact of such violations. Even if Parliament and the executive are as high-minded and as rights-minded as we would like to believe, it sometimes needs the judiciary, deciding a particular case, to achieve the degree of fine-tuning that is required to achieve a proper balance between conflicting interests.

At present, such balancing has been almost entirely left to commissioners and judges in Strasbourg. It is hard to believe that the task might not be equally well done - and more appropriately done - by judges in the UK itself.

Yours sincerely, GARTH NETHEIM, 112 Langham Road, N15.

Child abuse cases

From Ms J. Temkin and Professor G. J. Zellik.

Sir, Your leader of December 2 comes down too emphatically and prematurely against Professor Glanville Williams's suggestion (feature, November 25) that child victims of sex offences should be interviewed by an independent professional before the trial and the interview pre-recorded and then shown to the jury.

You are dismissing the idea now as summarily and superficially as did Professor Williams's colleagues on the Criminal Law Revision Committee some 20 years ago.

Of course there are major issues involved, but the trauma for child witnesses, even under the proposals in the Criminal Justice Bill, should not be underestimated. It would not be possible for such a change to be introduced without the fullest debate and consideration, but the children who fall victim to such crimes deserve at least that.

There is now a good deal of experience of such arrangements in other jurisdictions, notably in the United States, where there is at least as much sensitivity to the rights of defendants as here. The Government should certainly initiate a searching study of these procedures without delay. Our present criminal procedure is not so perfect that radical changes are unthinkable.

Yours faithfully, JENNIFER TEMKIN, (London School of Economics), GRAHAM ZELICK, Faculty of Laws, Queen Mary College, Mile End Road, E1.

Future of shipping

From Mr John Green. Sir, Incomes of between £500 and £1,000 a week (Spectrum, December 12) are by no means unusual in the fishing industry. Most crews are employed on a share basis and their income is based on this principle.

Of more concern to the public should be the way public money is invested in the catching side of the fish industry. This would be acceptable if the end result were to be more fish for the British consumer.

In fact more and more British-caught fish finds its way on to continental tables. This applies not only to Peterhead but to most of the ports in Great Britain. Buyers from France, Germany and Spain are offering prices at first-hand sales which far exceed those the home market will stand.

Recently published statistics indicate an increased percentage of disposable income being spent by continentalers on food. Sadly the reverse applies to the UK. Yours faithfully, JOHN GREEN, Managing Director, J. B. Green (Crouch End) Limited, Fish, poultry and game dealers, 65 Wood Vale, Muswell Hill, N10.

any violent solution to the Seychelles dilemma. His challenges to René, who assumed power in a bloody coup d'état, to hold free and fair elections were always rejected. That challenge still stands.

Your article points out that Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch had not been aware of any threats against my brother's life. In September, 1985, my brother had informed a certain Inspector Haslett, of Scotland Yard, that the French police had uncovered a plot to assassinate him in France and that he feared for his life. Arrests were also made by the French.

This was dismissed by Scotland Yard as "a wild story". Two months later that wild story turned into grim reality.

Yours faithfully, R. HOARAU, 8 Donnet Way, Heston, Middlesex.

Fears unallayed for mentally ill

From Mr John Lane

Sir, For some time, St Mungo and other agencies concerned with alleviating homelessness have tried to call attention to the issues raised by Dr Weller (November 22) and Mr Jacobs (November 27). We fear a crisis of appalling magnitude will soon be looming in our large cities.

A high percentage of the residents in our main hostel come in from the streets with chronic psychiatric problems for which they receive no treatment. Whether on the streets or in hostels, they are unable to register with GPs - the principal route to the NHS range of treatments - because their homelessness appears to be equated with an array of anti-social habits. People who are ill are thus condemned to deteriorate completely before there is any hope of intervention.

A man we recently admitted came to us from a green-belt psychiatric hospital via a bed-and-breakfast hotel. The delays in processing his DHSS claim left him unable to pay his rent. He spent several nights sleeping rough, with neither money nor food, before a passer-by referred him to us.

We took him to a walk-in medical centre whose staff contacted the hospital for details of his diagnosis: on grounds of confidentiality, it refused to divulge them. The man had a complete breakdown, and is now hospitalised.

Two of our staff have just returned from New York, which has afforded them a glimpse of the future. The scale of homelessness amongst mentally ill discharges is acute and appalling. It is estimated that number 30,000. A quarter of the patients discharged went to "unknown destinations".

Our fears are heightened rather than allayed by Baroness Trumpington's contribution (December 9). A "range of provision" for in-patients is necessary, but who will provide the variety of services offered by the best hospitals when they close? The main providers all construe their priorities and responsibilities differently.

In America, ex-patients find the services in the community to be fragmented, uncoordinated and inaccessible due to departmental bickering over responsibilities. All the evidence suggests that having carefully watched the US experience, we in Britain are studiously duplicating every caution error.

With Year of Shelter for the Homeless, dare we hope for more action than just another commemorative postage stamp?

Yours, JOHN LANE, Director, St Mungo Community Housing Association Ltd, 217-221 Harrow Road, Paddington, W2, December 10.

Keeping treasures

From Sir Arthur Drew. Sir, We have become used to great paintings fetching between £5 million and £10 million in the sale room. But yesterday the Middleham pendant fetched £1.3 million (report, December 12). At that price it is unlikely that the present system can stop the export of this English medieval masterpiece.

Is it not time the system was changed or at least buffed up with additional money in the National Heritage Memorial Fund? An object like this should rest in a museum in England, where it can be enjoyed by the public. Yours faithfully, ARTHUR DREW, Reform Club, Pall Mall, SW1, December 12.

Country of origin

From Mr A. A. Painter. Sir, The Conservative Parliamentary Group for European Reform express popular concern (letter, December 5) that the repeal of the Trade Descriptions Act 1972 will be detrimental to consumers in that it will no longer be necessary for imported goods to bear an indication of the country of origin. However, they misunderstand the requirements of that act and the likely effect of its repeal.

The Act requires that imported goods bearing a UK name or mark, or anything which may be taken as such, shall bear an indication of the country of origin. It has been generally ineffective because foreign goods not bearing a UK name etc are exempted and by virtue of the international production of consumer goods, it is often impossible to decide in which country a product is in fact made.

It is common for goods assembled in one country to be made entirely or partly from components made in one or more other countries. Any indication of the country of origin is likely, in those circumstances, to be misleading. There is evidence to suggest that compulsory origin marking may actually work against the interests of British manufacturers in product categories where consumers believe the foreign product to be superior. But whether that is so or not, it will remain open to British manufacturers to voluntarily mark their goods with a statement of origin. The consumer may then reasonably assume that goods not so marked are imported.

It should be borne in mind that a false indication of origin is an offence against the Trade Descriptions Act 1968 which will be

ON THIS DAY

DECEMBER 18 1840

Napoleon's coffin was brought in the French warship, *La Belle-Paule*, to Cherbourg from St Helena where he had died on May 5, 1821. There it was transhipped, and in its passage up the Seine to Paris was saluted at every stage by crowds. Our Correspondent at the Invalides did justice to the impressive ceremony in the chapel, but took a more critical view of the scenes outside.

FUNERAL OF NAPOLEON

(From a Correspondent.)

PARIS, Dec 15. ... The cold and icy litter for those to whom tickets had been allotted for the tribunes that occupied each side of the avenue leading up the esplanade of the Invalides from the quay to the great gate; but the crowd bore the biting frost with patience, for it was decidedly one of the very best positions for seeing the funeral procession from the lower line of stands already filled by 11 o'clock, and it was not until 2 o'clock that the procession reached the quay. Never was sight during this interval of three mortal hours less appropriate to the occasion than the spectacle we had before us. The intense cold rendered movement necessary for fear of being frozen to the spot, and to keep themselves warm the spectators in the stand began to dance. The main gait the crowd below, and for a long time the troops of the line and the National Guards were joining in one general contredanse, or an enormous *ronde à la main*. This preliminary *ronde* was waiting for the body of the great hero of their nation, and in the face of the lower line of statues of their greatest warriors, struck us as peculiarly French - perhaps we mean inconsistent. A *propos* of the long line of warrior statues that lined the avenue, the idea struck us as good. These heroes seemed placed there to receive the last, and perhaps greatest, warrior of the nation, as he was restored in death to his country. They may have been counselled, however, which we have already described, while away from the first court of the Invalides every quarter of an hour seemed to warm the hearts, if not the limbs, of others. For our parts, the cannon had one great advantage: the rich clouds of rolling smoke that they sent forth hid from our eyes for a time the bare poles and skeleton scaffolding of the half-draped spars that were announced in the programme as a triumphal funeral entrance to the Invalides. Nothing could be more pithy, more ugly, more disgraceful than this ragged-looking curtain to the great drama that was to be acted... The very fire-ports that occupied the tripod at the top of the two entrance gateposts of painted half-gilt wood seemed as if they, too, had received orders not to burn, and only to smoke. The same *ordre du jour* was solemnly observed by the other candlesticks that alternated with the statues along the avenue leading to the Invalides, and they dimmed instead of blazing, and went out before the funeral procession arrived. The day before the procession reached us, cleared up beautifully. A small quantity of snow had fallen, but the heavens did away for the solemnity of the ceremony that was to be done. The day as far as the season of the year would admit of, was a day such as proverbially graced Napoleon's fêtes in his imperial splendour and now greeted him again as he received his last honours. We heard it called a Napoleonic day...

But why place Napoleon in his Imperial robes, at the end, to greet himself? ... Till the procession really reached this spot the hours of impatient waiting were long; the distance however, which we have already described, while away from the first court of the Invalides every quarter of an hour seemed to warm the hearts, if not the limbs, of others. For our parts, the cannon had one great advantage: the rich clouds of rolling smoke that they sent forth hid from our eyes for a time the bare poles and skeleton scaffolding of the half-draped spars that were announced in the programme as a triumphal funeral entrance to the Invalides. Nothing could be more pithy, more ugly, more disgraceful than this ragged-looking curtain to the great drama that was to be acted... The very fire-ports that occupied the tripod at the top of the two entrance gateposts of painted half-gilt wood seemed as if they, too, had received orders not to burn, and only to smoke. The same *ordre du jour* was solemnly observed by the other candlesticks that alternated with the statues along the avenue leading to the Invalides, and they dimmed instead of blazing, and went out before the funeral procession arrived. The day before the procession reached us, cleared up beautifully. A small quantity of snow had fallen, but the heavens did away for the solemnity of the ceremony that was to be done. The day as far as the season of the year would admit of, was a day such as proverbially graced Napoleon's fêtes in his imperial splendour and now greeted him again as he received his last honours. We heard it called a Napoleonic day...

unaffected by the Consumer Protection Bill.

Origin marking is no longer a credible measure of consumer protection, nor is it a good example of the erosion of UK sovereignty.

Yours faithfully, A. A. PAINTER, Lawmark, Sussex Suite, City Gate, 2-4 Southgate, Chichester, Sussex, December 5.

Music on trains

From Miss Carol Illingworth. Sir, Henry Stanhope's support of buskers (feature, December 5) is most welcome. Britain, however, does not have a monopoly.

Some three years ago I travelled by train from Orange, New South Wales, to Sydney, and on this journey through the spectacular Blue Mountain range the passengers were entertained by a group of young musicians performing Australian folk songs and bush ballads. It is, perhaps, no coincidence that A. B. Paterson (Banjo Paterson), of "Waltzing Matilda" fame, was born within a stone's throw of Orange. I was unable to discover whether this was an isolated occurrence.

Would it not be delightful if BR were to take a leaf out of the Australians' book, and lay on "performing" trains for visitors to Britain? Shakespeare's songs on the way to the Malvern, Scottish ballads and, of course, cypresses when the West Indian cricket team are visiting us, for example. Yours etc, CAROL ILLINGWORTH, 2F Randolph Crescent, W9, December 5.

from Gabon
dinosaurs
le jungle



Executive Editor
Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1276.1 (-3.5)
FT-SE 100
1636.3 (-1.6)
Bargains
34415 (38336)
USM (Datastream)
129.27 (-0.54)
THE POUND
US Dollar
1.4300 (-0.0015)
W German mark
2.8815 (-0.0101)
Trade-weighted
68.6 (-0.2)

Beazer in
agreed bid
for Franki

CH Beazer, the house-building and contracting group, has made an agreed cash offer worth HK\$108 million (£9.7 million) for Franki Investments, a civil engineering company in Hong Kong stock market.

Beazer, which intends to retain Franki's operations in Hong Kong and the Pacific Basin through French Kier, the combination of the two should provide a substantial platform for growth, Beazer said.

Franki's business will be continued as an independent entity. It made pretax profits in the six months to the end of June of HK\$6.8 million.

Newman buy

Newman Tonks Group, the Midlands engineering company, is paying \$10 million (£7 million) in shares for Quality, an American manufacturer of hardware products for architects and builders' supply merchants. Quality made pretax profits of \$1.27 million in the nine months to the end of October on sales of \$6.4 million.

£2m buyout

The plant hire business of the USM-quoted building company Consolidated Tern is being bought by the management in a £2 million deal. The new company will be called Crestacre Holdings.

Hogg ahead

Hogg Robinson, the Lloyd's broking and travel agency business, made pretax profits in the six months to the end of September of £7.9 million, a rise of 36 per cent. The interim dividend was raised 14.4 per cent to 5p net.

SEC inquiry

Texas Commerce Bancshares Inc, which is to be bought by Chemical New York Corp (CHL) in a deal announced on Monday, said it has been contacted by the Securities and Exchange Commission in relation to an inquiry into trading activity in its common stock last Friday. No SEC comment was available.

Bid cleared

The Trade Secretary, Mr Paul Channon, has decided not to refer the proposed acquisition of Glasgow Stockholders Trust by John Mowlem and Co to the Monopolies Commission.

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MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS	
New York	1924.92 (+11.24)
Dow Jones	2275.12 (+11.24)
Nikkei Dow	18947.77 (+85.30)
Hong Kong	2411.08 (+29.60)
Hang Seng	2802.2 (-2.2)
American Gdn	1458.8 (+7.1)
Sydney: AO	1458.8 (+7.1)
Frankfurt	2057.1 (+4.0)
Brussels	4065.54 (+1.12)
General	410.0 (-3.4)
Paris: CAC	552.40 (-0.4)
Zurich: SIK Gen	2130 (-0.17)
London: FT. A	1276.1 (-3.5)
FT. Gifs	82.13 (-0.17)
Closing prices	Page 25

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base: 11%	
3-month Interbank 11-11.5%	
3-month eligible bills 10-10.5%	
buying rate	
US Prime Rate 7.5%	
Federal Funds 7.5%	
3-month Treasury bills 6.5-6.51%	
30-year bonds 10.1-10.11%	

CURRENCIES

CURRENCIES	
London	New York
\$: £1.4300	\$: £1.4300
DM: £2.8815	DM: £2.8815
Sfr: £2.4303	Sfr: £2.4303
FF: £163.52	FF: £163.52
Yen: £163.52	Yen: £163.52
Index: 68.6	Index: 68.6
ECU: £0.722466	SDR: £0.836849

Share sale pays for Euston Centre

British Land
in £92m deal

By Alexandra Jackson

British Land is raising £92 million to finance the purchase of properties including the remaining interest in the Euston Centre, a 12-acre office complex in London's Euston Road built during the property boom in the late 1960s.

British Land is paying £65.4 million to Peninsula and Oriental Steam Navigation Company for Euston Centre Investments. To pay for this and to finance two other projects, SG Warburg, the merchant banker, is raising £29.2 million net through a placing of 62.9 million new British Land shares, increasing British Land's share capital by 45 per cent.

The other projects being financed by the placing are Lowndes Lambert House in Eastcheap, London, EC3, acquired for £17 million in October 1986, and the third tranche of £31 million of the Legal & General property portfolio bought in June 1986.

Euston Centre Investments owns, among other things, 50 per cent of Euston Centre, an office complex on the Euston Road - once London's tallest office block. British Land bought the balance of Euston Centre from George Wimpey in 1984.

In addition, ECI owns freehold office properties in Dover Street and Wigmore Street, London W1.

An independent assessment of ECI's property portfolio values it at £86.3 million or £75.7 million net of debt. The net rental income before debt charges is about £6.2 million.

After the deal, British Land will own 1.2 million sq ft - expected to generate net rental income of £11 million a year - comprising the Euston Centre property and offices in Wigmore and Dover streets.

The market has suspected a deal of this nature and British Land shares, pushed up by bid speculation a few weeks ago to nearly 200p, dropped back to 178p before the announcement.

The market's dissatisfaction with the deal, owing to the expected dilution in British Land's 1987-88 earnings per share and asset value, was shown by a further fall in the share price to 175p.

The ECI purchase is being financed in part by the issue of 6.75 million British Land shares direct to P&O, through the placing of 27.96 million shares and by a £6.4 million cash payment. British Land shareholders are being invited to apply for 2 placing shares for every 5 British Land shares held for 170p.

Yesterday's announcement contained a revaluation of the British Land portfolio. The directors, supported by the opinion of independent assessors, believe the net tangible assets of the group to be £365 million or 260p a share.

British Land's interim results for the six months to the end of September showed pretax profits up 44 per cent from £8.1 million to £11.7 million. Gross world rents, of which 85 per cent is collected in Britain, was £53 million.

Mr John Kirby, chairman of British Land, said the group was "well placed to pursue further major acquisitions." The interim dividend was increased by 25 per cent to 1.25p.

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Cambrian's
successor
to Boesky

New York (Reuters) - Mr David Hobson, a former senior partner at Coopers & Lybrand, the chartered accountant, is taking over as chairman of Cambrian & General Securities, the British investment trust formerly chaired and managed by Mr Ivan Boesky, the disgraced American arbitrageur.

Mr Hobson said yesterday that he had been requested to take over by the company's merchant bankers, SG Warburg, after Mr Boesky's resignation over disclosure of his involvement in the Wall Street insider trading scandal.

"It's left a bit of a gap," he commented.

Both the bank and certain shareholders felt it would be best to have an independent chairman to sort out the company's affairs.

"The main objective is to try to clear up the situation and issue the accounts, and see where we go from there," Mr Hobson said.

Shareholders have been promised a further statement before the general meeting to be held on December 30. This will be issued within the next week or so.

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Clyde pays £6.9m
for N Sea stake

By Carol Ferguson

Clyde Petroleum, the British independent oil company, is to buy a 9.2 per cent interest in the Buchanan oilfield in the Central North Sea from Texaco, the American oil group, for \$10 million (£6.9 million).

Clyde is to pay for its own resources, which were boosted by £3.6 million of cash on the sale of its 25 per cent holding in Berkeley Exploration in Ranger Oil at the time of Ranger's bid for Berkeley.

The acquisition will raise Clyde's interest in Buchanan to 21.95 per cent, adding three million barrels of proven developed reserves and 2,500 barrels a day of production.

On completion Clyde will have 31 million barrels of proven British oil reserves, including its share of the Wytch Farm field, Dorset, and another seven million in the US and Ecuador.

Its annual oil production in 1987 will average 12,500 barrels a day, a rate which can be maintained until Wytch Farm output is boosted tenfold in the second half of 1989.

Mr Malcolm Gourlay, Clyde's chief executive, said that the deal was a play on the oil price and on the Buchanan reserves. "The Buchanan reservoir is very complex, and ultimate recovery could be much greater than official reserves of 75 million barrels."

The last sale of a Buchanan interest was earlier this year when BP, the Buchan operator, paid £17 million for Salpetro, which owned a 12.71 per cent interest in Buchanan and offshore acreage including an interest in Humber Grove.

A direct comparison is impossible because of the difficulty of valuing the on-shore acreage.

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Confident Sir Ron: no collapse

Stamp rebate hits
Post Office profits

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

The Post Office, including Girobank, yesterday reported first half pretax profits of £21 million against £67 million a year earlier. But it said that it was confident of again achieving an annual profit of well over £100 million.

Sir Ron Dearing, the chairman, emphasized that the Post Office had expected the dip in profits and had budgeted for them after the long period of price restraint including the 1p rebate on basic second-class letters which cost the Post Office £25 million.

Postal charges rose in October when the price of the first-class stamp was increased by 1p to 18p and second-class stamps, previously cut by 1p, returned to 13p each.

Sir Ron strongly denied that profits had collapsed. The decision to hold and rebate prices was "an incentive to help our customers and to encourage growth at the expense of short-term profitability and we are well satisfied with the record growth it produced."

"Holding and reducing our prices for such a long time was a very commercial approach, and we held the price discount for more than twice as long as originally planned and announced."

In the year to March 31 the Post Office recorded a profit, before tax and interest payable, of £167 million, and on current performance should return £125 million in 1986-87.

Sir Ron disclosed that in October the mail made a profit of £32 million, and he said that it was confident that it would meet the Government-imposed target for this year of achieving a 3.25 per cent return on turnover before net interest and tax.

Last year the Post Office was forced - under the system of negative external finance limits - to pay £99 million to the Treasury of which £6 million came from Girobank.

This year Sir Ron has won a reduction to £60 million.

National Girobank, which publishes its result as a pre-tax, historical cost operating profit, made £12 million for the half year.

The Post Office said that more than 100,000 personal accounts were opened, and at the end of the six months the bank introduced its new savings service, earmarking £100 million for lending to housebuyers.

Sir Ron repeated the Post Office's long-term strategy of keeping postal prices below the rate of inflation for the next five years. "We will be ploughing back our profits into continuing to keep prices down," he said.

Sir Ron reiterated the Post Office board's opposition to any future break-up of the corporation.

Sir Ron reiterated the Post Office board's opposition to any future break-up of the corporation.

Opec deadlock
over Gulf War
adversaries

By Teresa Poole, Business Correspondent

Iran yesterday called for the suspension of Iraq, its Gulf war adversary, from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries as talks on cuts in oil production remained deadlocked over the question of a quota for Iraq.

The demand came as intensive behind-the-scenes negotiations appeared to yield little success in finding a compromise solution to the impasse, and as the planned plenary ministerial session failed to take place.

Some delegates began to talk of the possibility of having to extend the temporary curbs on output which expire at the end of this month, and of reconvening the meeting next month.

But Senor Javier Espinosa, Ecuador's oil minister, said last night that ministers would probably meet today. He added: "The chances of breaking up without an accord are minimal - there will be one."

Early in the day the Iranian news agency, Ibra, quoted a high-ranking Iranian official as saying that Iran had called for Baghdad's suspension because of Iraq's refusal to accept Opec decisions.

Delegates saw the call as an expression of frustration by Iran. After four days of private talks Iraq is still refusing to accept any oil output quota lower than that allocated to Iran - 2.3 million barrels a day.

This compares with Iraq's output of about 1.7 million barrels a day. Iraq is exempted from the temporary production curbs agreement.

The possibility that agreement on quotas may be postponed weakened oil prices, and Brent for delivery in February slipped about 20 cents to \$15.90.

The West German Bundesbank, or central bank, will hold its key council meeting today, when monetary targets will be set for next year. Herr Karl Otto Pöhl, the Bundesbank president, is expected to indicate that there is no scope in the short-term for a reduction in interest rates in West Germany.

Herr Pöhl, who will be giving a press conference after the council meeting with Herr Martin Bangemann, the Economics Minister, will restate the Bundesbank's commitment to monetary targets after this year's overshoot - the first since 1978.

The central bank money stock - the target measure - has been growing at almost 8 per cent compared with the 3.5 to 5.5 per cent target-range. The Bundesbank is expected to persist with the 3.5 to 5.5 per cent target for next year, but not attempt to claw back this year's excess growth.

Following the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund in Washington at the end of September, when the Bundesbank successfully resisted international pressure to ease interest rates, money market rates in Germany have been edging upwards.

The main casualty of this gentle firming has been France, which has been forced to raise interest rates to protect the franc's parity in the European Monetary System.

EMAP bid referred

The agreed bid by the fast-growing EMAP group for its fellow newspaper publisher Courier Press (Holdings) has been referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Yesterday's announcement by Mr Paul Channon, the Trade Secretary, came a day after EMAP revealed its £22 million offer and said that "it had not been discouraged" by preliminary discussions with the Trade Department officials on the possible results of an inquiry.

The offer will remain open until Mr Channon gives his final decision, which EMAP expects by the end of April.

EMAP is offering CPH shareholders a 17-for-two share swap or £10.80 per CPH share in cash or loan notes.

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The Fleming Japanese
Investment Trust plc

The company's policy is to specialise in investment in Japan with the emphasis on capital appreciation.

Highlights of the period to 30th September		1986	1985	% change
Total assets		£162.1m	£71.4m	+127.1
Net asset value per ordinary share		1006p	459p	+119.0
Ordinary share price		710p	406p	+74.9

"The success of our Japanese specialisation has been very marked and still appears to be soundly based. We propose a capitalisation issue of four shares for each share held."

P.A.F. GIFFORD
Chairman

If you would like a copy of the Fleming Japanese Annual Report and/or a copy of the Dividend Reinvestment and Savings Scheme brochure please tick and return the coupon to: Robert Fleming Services Limited, 25 Cophall Avenue, London EC2R 7DR.

Name _____
Address _____

FLEMINGS

Mecca Leisure beats forecast

By John Bell
City Editor

Mecca Leisure, the bingo and holidays group which went public in October, comfortably topped its prospectus profit forecast yesterday.

Pretax profits for the year to September 30 reached £7.54 million compared with the £7.5 million expected at the time of the flotation and £5.76 million for the previous year.

Mr Michael Guthrie, the chairman, reported that the current year has started well and that Mecca was in a position to develop its businesses and to expand into related areas. Capital spending was £8 million last year and the group expects to spend £20 million in the current 12 months.

A year ago, Mr Guthrie and his management team bought the company from Grand Metropolitan for £95 million. At the time of the flotation the backers of the buy-out made a return of more than 50 per cent on their holdings.

Most of the group performed well last year. Entertainment and catering profits rose from £2.2 million to £4.1 million, while bingo made £7.1 million, against £5.5 million. The holiday contribution topped £2.1 million - £600,000 up.

Bryant shares in false market

A false market was created in Bryant Holding's shares for almost an hour yesterday after Bryant made a profit forecast of £21 million and rejected an increased offer from English China Clays.

However, English China Clays (ECC) had not increased its £132 million offer for Bryant, made last month. Its offer is worth 151.5p a share with a cash alternative of 130p.

Bryant's shares opened the day at 154p and rose to 157p in the belief that ECC had increased its offer. Later, Bryant published a correction to the original announcement and the price drifted back to 155p.

It is thought that the confusion began with an announcement, earlier in the day, on the Stock Exchange's news service which said the bid by ECC would not be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. It is possible that when the market heard of the announcement it assumed it to be an increased bid for Bryant by ECC.

Bryant's profit forecast of at least £21 million pretax for the 12 months to the end of May 1987 is based on five months of management accounts and an estimate for the remainder of the year.

Bryant made £13.5 million in its last financial year to the end of May 1986.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Market rates December 17	Market rates close	1 month	3 months
N York 1.4296-1.4305	1.4293-1.4305	0.5500-0.5500pm	1.85-1.8500pm
Montreal 1.5670-1.5730	1.5669-1.5730	0.47-0.37pm	1.32-1.3700pm
Amst (am) 3.5430-3.5505	3.5430-3.5505	15-14pm	55-5500pm
Brussels 59.77-60.05	59.80-60.01	25-15pm	31-3100pm
C'hen 10.8640-10.8650	10.8750-10.8823	15-25ide	45-4500pm
Dublin 1.0554-1.0559	1.0575-1.0575	14-14pm	31-3100pm
Frankfurt 1.2725-1.2875	1.2725-1.2875	15-14pm	42-5505
London 213.21-214.50	213.21-214.50	15-14pm	41-4100pm
Madrid 197.75-194.80	197.75-194.80	19-15ide	224-251ide
Mexico 1880.85-2002.55	1880.85-2002.55	25-25ide	30-35ide
Oelo 10.7810-10.8655	10.7810-10.8655	24pm-15ide	24pm-15ide
Paris 9.1105-9.1480	9.1404-9.1470	4-4ide	13-14ide
Porto 9.1125-9.5600	9.2422-9.5553	13-13pm	31-3100pm
Tokyo 233.20-234.25	233.20-234.05	11-14pm	31-3100pm
Vienna 30.21-30.21	30.25-30.25	11-14pm	4-3100pm
Zurich 2.4565-2.4565	2.4287-2.4338	14-14pm	41-3100pm

Sterling rates compared with 1975 was down at 83.5 (day's range 83.5-87.7).

OTHER STERLING RATES

Argentina austral*	1.7299-1.7354
Australia dollar	0.1150-0.1151
Bahram dinar	0.5360-0.5400
Brazil cruzado*	20.7441-20.8539
Cyprus pound	0.7840-0.7840
Finland marka	7.8055-7.8755
Greece drachma	7.25-25.035
Hong Kong dollar	11.7145-11.7152
Indo rupiah	16.85-16.85
Iraq dir	n/a
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4185-0.4255
Malaysia dollar	3.7129-3.7184
Mexico peso	1.155-1.155
New Zealand dollar	2.7274-2.7274
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.5350-5.5750
Singapore dollar	3.1945-3.1945
South Africa rand	3.1945-3.1945
U A E Dirham	6.2215-6.2515
Lloyds Bank	

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Ireland	1.3495-1.3525
Singapore	2.1928-2.1938
Malaysia	2.8870-2.8895
Australia	0.8540-0.8553
Canada	1.3792-1.3797
Sweden	5.5505-5.5525
Norway	5.5500-5.5500
Denmark	7.8200-7.8250
West Germany	2.0160-2.0170
Switzerland	1.7010-1.7020
Netherlands	2.2795-2.2795
France	6.5500-6.5500
Japan	163.60-163.70
Italy	1397.5-1398.5
Belgium (Comm)	41.55-41.55
Hong Kong	7.7950-7.7950
Portugal	149.50-149.50
Spain	165.00-165.00
Austria	14.17-14.19

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank MIFEX and Ecol.

RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES

Ashland (122p)	148 -3
Battelle/Battelle (103p)	141
Brake Bros (125p)	157
British Gas (50p)	62 1/2
Cap & Regional (85p)	56 +2
Daniel S (130p)	158
Pentech King (175p)	178 -2
Gaynor (94p)	110 -1
Gestec (125p)	169 -1
Glenview (16p)	57
Gordon Russell (190p)	50
Guthrie Corp (150p)	158 -2
Halls Homes & Gores (86p)	105
Hammy Leisure (23p)	26 +1
Johnson Fy	165
Lloyds Chemical (105p)	152
Loytek (85p)	67 +2
Lord Macdonald (145p)	163 +3
Miss Sam Hodge (105p)	95 -4
Nobo (152p)	105 +2
Northampton Fine (80p)	94 -1

Plum Hidge (90p)	113
Spondex	230
Sumit (135p)	108 -1
Telecom (100p)	140 +1
Chase Issues (70p)	73 -1
Virgin (140p)	139 1/4
World Group (87p)	102
Wilding Office (135p)	145 +2

RIGHTS ISSUES

Avon Rubber N/P	36 +13
Camfield F/P	6
Leisure Int N/P	6
Norfolk Cap F/P	2
Petroco F/P	63
Regent F/P	320
Thoro Sec F/P	230
Waddington F/P	150
Walker (A/R)	
(Issue price in brackets).	

ECONOMIC VIEW

Real incomes growth tells the Chancellor's rags-to-riches tale

Non-economists it is all rather puzzling. But to economists it is very confusing indeed. The Chancellor, faced a few months ago with post-oil penny, suddenly encounters an embarrassment of riches.

The Treasury, never very successful at hitting its borrowing targets, looks set for another substantial miss this year. But, as in 1985-86, the error will come in the form of a sizeable undershoot.

Two financial years can never be directly compared. Changes in the pattern and size of tax payments and the adjustment to a lower oil price mean that comparisons between the present financial year and the last one are problematical.

The fact remains, however, that the public sector borrowing requirement for the first eight months of the year was only £5.7 billion, compared with £6 billion in the corresponding period of 1985-86.

And this year, unlike last, most of the privatization proceeds have still to come. In 1985-86, with only a small amount of privatization in the final four months of the financial year, the PSBR outturn was £5.8 billion.

A similar performance in the final four months of this financial year, coupled with the £3.4 billion of privatization proceeds (British Gas, shares and loans, and the first



Lord Young: "generalized exhortation does not work"

that has been the central feature of the economy this year. Income tax receipts are strong, as is the Exchequer income from corporation tax.

Such are the Exchequer benefits from strong growth in real incomes that government ministers appear to have given up exhorting workers to settle for lower pay. Lord Young of Grafton, the Secretary of State for Employment, admitted this week that "generalized exhortation does not work."

In a speech to the Institute of Directors, Lord Young accepted that unions could not be held to respond to such advice from the Government because wage claims were a test of their virility. And management is under pressure to pay the going rate for workers, even if that rate is rising.

Which brings us back to the Government's finances. It is possible to argue that this year's PSBR undershoot, like the summer fall in inflation to less than 2.5 per cent, is largely a one-off effect. It was lower inflation, rather than an acceleration in earnings, that produced the strong growth in real incomes and all its effects outlined above.

Next year, inflation will be higher and real income growth consequently lower. It would be unwise to expect this year's buoyancy for non-oil revenues to persist next year (although there could be a boost to oil revenues if Opec agrees to \$18 a barrel production).

Why should a PSBR undershoot this year have any consequences for the Government's plans for 1987, and whether or not 2p or 3p is cut from the basic rate of income tax? City economists are already calling into question the public spending totals for next year, although the planning total was raised by £4.7 billion to £148.6 billion.

There is one direct reason why an undershoot this year has implications for next year. The £750 million in British Gas loans due for repayment at the end of the financial year can be taken in either 1986-87 or 1987-88.

If the PSBR is heading for an undershoot, it would make sense for the Chancellor to take this £750 million next year.

The other reason is that a PSBR undershoot this year will challenge the credibility of those in the City who forecast overshoots. Just as the Treasury has bludgeoned the outside world into acceptance of its economic forecasts, so the Chancellor is attempting the same thing with his commitment to not allowing borrowing to rise above £7 billion next year.

So it all looks to be working out rather nicely. Extra public spending and tax cuts can be magically accommodated in a reasonably robust projection for public borrowing. And for this, credit must be given to the workers and management who refused to listen to ministerial exhortation on lower pay rises; to the banks and other providers of credit for fueling an already roaring consumer boom; and to the spending departments which successfully challenged the Treasury's public spending totals.

David Smith
Economics Correspondent

RETAIL SALES BY SECTOR
(Percentage growth rates, volume)

	1984	1985	Jan-Oct 1986
All retailers	3.4	4.5	4.8
Food retailers	2.5	3.9	3.4
Mixed retailers	3.8	5.0	5.2
Clothing and footwear	5.9	7.0	6.4
Household goods	4.3	5.8	8.4

Source: Department of Trade & Industry

STOCK MARKET

Drugs sector sparkles but volumes slacken elsewhere

By Carol Leonard

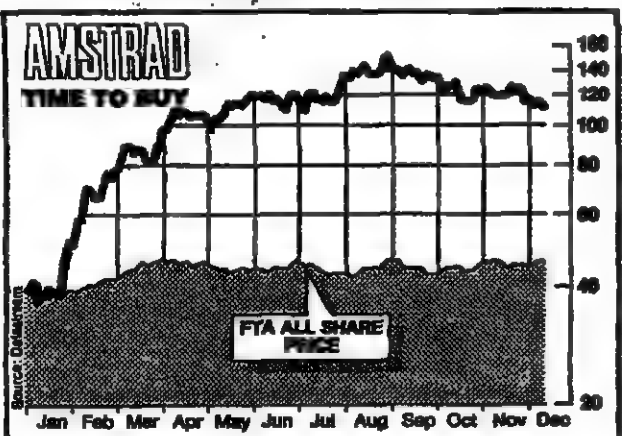
Christmas festivities were well to the fore in the City yesterday as market men made merry in the "watering holes" within the Square Mile and left the stock market to its own devices.

One stockbroker quipped: "Our settlement offices are all overloaded with British Gas and, until they've sorted through the backlog, we might as well go out and enjoy ourselves."

Volumes were extremely thin and the FT-SE 100 Share index responded to the lack of interest by drifting gradually lower, to close down 1.6 at 1,636.3. The FT 30 Share index followed a similar pattern and closed 3.5 lower at 1,276.1.

Gifts opened easier on the back of sterling's weakness, but then recovered to end the day about one-sixteenth better in the longs and unchanged in the shorts. Helped by Tuesday's PSBR figures, gifts futures were just a couple of pence below their "high" for the year.

Among blue-chip equities ICI firmed 2p to 108.3p. Allied-Sirop's a penny to 309p, while THF slipped 4p to 172p. Grand Metropolitan 3p to



460p on further profit-taking and GEC 2p to 164p.

The pharmaceutical sector was a rare hub of activity with sizeable volumes notched up and most shares making useful gains. Beecham, amid a volume of 4.4 million shares, improved 4p to 430p, after announcing the sale of its interest in Eurobrand, a marketing company for wines and spirits, to Remy Martin for £8 million.

Glaxo gained another 13p to 1,023p - again on hopes of a new drug, even though it may still be several years away from the market - and Fisons jumped 17p to 538p after a presentation yesterday to the medical press of its new anti-asthma drug, Tilade, due to be launched in Britain in January.

London International Group, the Duxton-Royal Worcester combine, eased a half-penny to 245.5p after Soros, the American fund-management group, announced it had further cut its holding in the company to 4.7 per cent.

In their seven-page review of the company, two analysts, Mr Mike Whitaker and Mr Keith Woolcock, say they believe that demand for the

new machines is exceeding even the most bullish expectations and that production is now up to the targeted 70,000 units a month.

They forecast that profits will almost double, rising from £75.3 million to £150 million, in 1987 and say this technical correction represents "an excellent buying opportunity."

Industrial life insurance companies moved sharply higher on vague talk that the TSB may be looking for an acquisition. Analysts were sceptical of the story, although there were reports of a heavy buyer in the sector. Royal Assurances moved ahead by 20p to 1,528p, Britannic 10p to 887p and Refuge 8p to 447p.

Hogg Robinson, the insurance broker which unveiled half-time figures and the acquisition of Airtours, a chain of 21 travel agents, jumped 13p to 360p.

Speculators hoping that Combined English Stores may turn into a white knight and rescue Goldsmiths from Oriflame will be disappointed. Mr David Richardson, managing director of CES, says he is "definitely not interested" in making a bid. Goldsmiths shares firmed 2p to 254p.

Marks and Spencer dipped 3p to 176p with 8.5 million shares traded through the market as some investors lightened their load. James Capel, the broker, has downgraded its profit forecast by about £5 million.

LCP slipped 1p to 196p as Ward White declared that it now has 42.8 per cent.

ALPHA STOCKS
These prices are as at 6.45pm

1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Old	Offer	Chg	Vol	1985	High	Low	Company	Price	Old	Offer	Chg	Vol
263	283	283	Allied-Lyons	107	107	107	0	14.5	4.7	14.1	852	248	276	276	276	-1	14.8
174	126	126	ASDA-MFI	144	144	144	0	4.5	3.1	18.0	1,580	220	135	135	135	-2	22.2
390	241	241	BTR	288	272	272	-16	9.8	3.8	18.9	326	494	290	290	290	-5	25.0
481	381	381	BAT	485	472	472	-13	15.4	3.8	12.8	2,100	288	183	183	183	-1	17.1
672	449	449	Barrat	485	480	480	-5	28.1	5.8	7.0	788	231	163	163	163	-2	5.9
940	825	825	Bass	727	737	737	10	34.3	3.3	13.0	750	589	417	417	417	-1	27.1
450	326	326	Beecham	427	427	427	0	17.1	4.0	17.8	1,200	358	428	428	428	0	27.5
726	528	528	Blue Circle	550	550	550	0	30.0	4.6	9.3	532	576	428	428	428	-1	26.4
358	285	285	BOC	357	360	360	3	15.4	4.3	14.0	967	500	385	385	385	-2	15.4
268	170	170	Boole	222	225	225	3	10.6	4.7	14.5	4,700	643	315	315	315	-3	21.4
654	423	423	Br Arrol-Johnston	490	495	495	5	22.4	4.7	10.4	1,500	546	182	182	182	-2	7.2
654	423	423	Br Gas	63	63	63	0	46.8	6.9	7.7	4,100	942	716	716	716	0	31.4
710	330	330	Br Petroleum	192	202	202	10	11.2	5.6	11.7	6,700	589	421	421	421	-2	22.5
280	177	177	Br Telecom	163	165	165	2	9.3	4.7	14.5	4,300	600	606	606	606	0	23.9
193	98	98	Brital	158	158	158	0	5.1	3.1	14.5	1,400	584	545	545	545	-1	5.8
354	256	256	Burton	258	262	262	4	10.5	5.1	15.7	422	577	553	553	553	-2	18.0
390	277	277	Cable & Wireless	317	324	324	7	4.7	4.7	21.5	4,700	532	385	385	385	-2	38.8
198	156	156	Cadbury Schweppes	182	185	185	3	17.4	5.5	14.0	677	607	782	782	782	0	5.4
494	426	426	Costa Vita	295	298	298	3	35.0	4.2	28.1	318	149	104	104	104	-1	18.0
396	257	257	Com Union	265	270	270	5	10.2	5.3	10.4	1,200	415	315	315	315	-2	17.1
704	409	409	Corn Goldfields	383	370	370	-13	10.5	5.1	15.7	422	577	553	553	553	-2	18.0
330	252	252	Courtauld	307	310	310	3	4.8	1.4	22.5	1,700	132	93	93	93	-1	1.3
290	201	201	Dea Corp	214	218	218	4	8.4	1.8	23.9	4,300	174	95	95	95	-1	2.1
498	218	218	Dixons Grp	235	238	238	3	34.3	4.3	20.3	630	654	419	419	419	-6	46.4
650	408	408	Fisons	405	407	407	2	5.3	3.0	10.2	2,700	525	270	270	270	-2	11.6
264	170	170	Gen Accident	185	187	187	2	20.0	2.0	21.3	3,000	772	520	520	520	-1	27.5
620	159	159	GLEO	150	150	150	0	13.5	2.9	16.5	1,300	814	734	734	734	-1	8.9
114	755	755	Glaxo	459	462	462	3	20.0	2.9	16.5	1,300	814	734	734	734	-1	8.9
481	328	328	Grand Met	314	318	318	4	17.8	6.9	8.7	1,800	529	374	374	374	-2	26.0
114	721	721	GUS A	299	291	291	-8	11.6	3.9	12.9	2,700	529	374	374	374	-2	26.0
355	275	275	Guinness	269	269	269	0	6.1	3.3	11.9	3,400	238	139	139	139	-3	7.9
215	141	141	Hanson	165	167	167	2	21.4	5.0	9.5	175	22	13	13	13	-1	60.1
623	403	403	Hawker Siddeley	310	314	314	4	48.2	4.8	12.1	900	238	214	214	214	-1	18.8
114	734	734	Imp Chem Ind	515	518	518	3	12.2	2.5	10.7	1,300	214	214	214	214	0	3.0
583	338	338	Jaguar	369	369	369	0	18.8	4.8	17.5	690	925	490	490	490	-2	22.9
391	312	312	Ladbroke	305	305	305	0	18.8	4.8	17.5	690	925	490	490	490	-2	22.9

COMMENT Kenneth Fleet

Pilkington ahead on points in first round

Among today's master bidders and their advisers, the technique in contested takeovers is to put out a deliberately low initial offer. That is intended to smoke out the other side's ammunition and, most crucially, to depress expectations of the final or real offer. Even so, the first bid usually has enough credibility to attract a few gullible souls who do not watch the market too carefully.

Judged by that test, BTR's £1.1 billion offer for Pilkington must rate an all-time low for credibility having attracted acceptances from only 100,000 shares with a value of just £644,000 at its first closing date on Tuesday.

Yesterday, the offer was, as expected, extended until Christmas eve. This tactic too is by now wellworn. Its message is that the bidder considers his first offer pretty serious and will only be dragged with the utmost reluctance into increasing it by not very much. The idea is that the final offer then comes as a pleasant surprise to the bored shareholders of the target company, who are left to muse that their shares would not stand so high if the bid failed. It is also intended to fill in a dull period in the bid timetable before the victim company is obliged to release all its forecasts - in this case January 3. If the original failed bid were not extended, the bidder might have to make a succession of higher offers, which tend to raise market expectations.

This could be particularly embarrassing for Sir Owen Green and BTR. Pilkington's share price is continuing to rise, putting on 3p yesterday on the low level of acceptances. At 641p, it stands 28p above its close on November 20, the day the bid was announced. Meanwhile, BTR's share price has been sagging. After holding up well at 291p on the first day, it has dropped to 269p, off a further 2p yesterday.

This has cut the value of the bid, originally put at around 545p, probably to less than 530p. If Sir Owen had to raise his bid now, he could hardly offer less than 650p a share, which would still probably not survive Pilkington's profit forecast and other final salvos.

The interim profits were better than expected, causing market forecasts for the year to March to be raised from an original £175 million or so to £190-200 million. And since this will include less than five months of the latest and biggest 10 per cent rise in British glass prices, it is already clear that Pilkington can do considerably better than this in 1987-88.

The BTR share price, although it will have more friends in the New Year, is unlikely to be able to sustain a knockout bid for the fast-improving glassmaker. Pilkington's own credibility has been boosted by the privatization launch of its great Continental rival St Gobain, which shows a similar, if more modest, pattern of retrenchment and recovery.

The relationship between the City and industry will certainly feature prominently in discussion of the bid right up to its intended final close on January 24. It will probably not decide the issue. But it will stiffen institutional shareholders to resist any but a knockout bid from BTR.

Zero could mean plenty

The authorities have not been afraid to innovate in their choice of funding instruments. But we have yet to see a zero-coupon, gilt-edged stock emerging from behind the Bank of England's solid walls. And this, according to Alexander Laing & Cruickshank, is just what the market needs.

Zero-coupon bonds, where all the return comes in the form of capital repayment, have proved highly popular. In the United States, pension funds and insurance companies have latched on to zero-coupon bonds for portfolio-matching purposes.

A similar demand, largely unsatisfied, almost certainly exists in Britain. Because of this, Alexander argues, zeros could be priced higher than conventional stocks, cutting the cost of funding.

There is another potential saving for the Government if zero-coupon gilts attracted higher-rate taxpayers currently investing in tax shelters. Zeros would have lower yields, producing a net saving to the authorities. This net saving would only be lost if all the switching into zero-coupons was from other gilts.

Reducing the cost of funding is always an attractive carrot for the authorities. And, if nothing else, a funding innovation by the authorities might liven up a dull-as-ditchwater gilt-edged market.

Yesterday, the market managed to struggle to gains of a quarter of a point. But, the bond market gurus at Salomon Brothers, in their *Prospects for Financial Markets in 1987*, suggest that the present lethargy will not last.

Citing the gilts market as easily the most attractive, in yield terms, of the important bond markets, Salomon Brothers suggests that judicious switching between Deutschmark bonds and gilts is the best strategy for 1987.

Further dollar weakness is expected, helping the pound to recover to \$1.50, although Salomons Brothers is a keen mark fan at the moment, expecting the dollar to fall to DM 1.75 and sterling to DM 2.60.

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RUPEES IN MILLIONS

	1977	1985	%age growth over 1977
SALES	689.80	7,162.89	938%
NET PROFIT	29.30	713.37	2334%
TOTAL ASSETS	169.99	7,356.96	4227%
NET WORTH	95.41	3,111.17	3161%
TOTAL DIVIDENDS	8.93	257.52	2783%

Issue of 13.5% Secured Fully Convertible Debentures of 145 Indian Rupees each. Each compulsorily converted into two Reliance shares at the end of 12 months at a conversion price of Rs. 72.50 per share. The average price of the shares during the week of 9th November was around Rs. 220 per share.

This advertisement is not an invitation to subscribe for the Debentures. Full details of the offer are contained in an Offering Circular dated 1st December 1986 on the terms of which alone investment in the Debentures may be made. For a copy of the Offering Circular and application forms please contact any of the following banks.

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175, Soho Road, Handsworth,
BIRMINGHAM B21-9SU.

32, Ealing Road, The Green,
SOUTHALL, MIDDLESEX
MIDDLESEX HA0 4TL

State Bank of India
State Bank House,
1, Milk Street, LONDON EC2

630 Finchley Road,
LONDON NW 11

Clarendon House
10/12, Clifford Street,
LONDON NW 1

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* in terms of market capitalization

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Reliance
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26 dividend, a Cumm dividend, is Cumm
 27 split, a Stock split, is Cumm all
 28 two or more of above, a Full split
 29 (more of above), Dealers or
 30 day of month, (1) Monday, (2) Tuesday,
 31 Wednesday, (4) Thursday, (5) Friday,
 32 25th of month, (21) 2nd Thursday of
 33 month, (29) 1st and 3rd Wednesday of
 34 month, (30) 25th of month, (34) 1st
 35 and 3rd Tuesday of month, (35) 1st and
 36 3rd Tuesday of month, (36) 1st and 3rd
 37 Tuesday of month, (37) 1st Wednesday of month, (38)
 39 1st and 3rd Thursday of month, (39) 3rd working
 40 day of month, (30) 16th of month, (51) 1st
 41 working day of month, (52) 25th of month,
 42 1st day of February, May, August,
 43 November, (24) Last working day of
 44 month, (35) 16th of month, (36) 1st and
 45 3rd Tuesday of month, (37) 21st of month, (38) 2nd
 46 and 3rd Tuesday of month, (39) 2nd
 47 and 3rd Tuesday of month, (40) 2nd and 3rd
 48 Tuesday of month, (41) Last Thursday of Stock
 49 change account, (42) Last day of
 50 month, (43) 2nd and 4th Wednesday of
 51 month, (44) Quarterly, (45) 6th of month,
 52 2nd Tuesday of month.

[illegible]

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

December 18, 1986

During the past six years UK companies achieved major productivity improvements and became much more cost-competitive and profitable. The major penalty was the heavy loss of jobs, particularly in manufacturing industries such as shipbuilding, engineering and coal mining.

British industry appeared to have survived the recession, and emerged from it as a much more healthy and cost-effective international competitor.

Unfortunately, the success story was short-lived. Sales have not increased. Profitability has started to decline, and strong new competitors have moved into traditional British markets. It would appear that industry may be more cost-competitive, but in many cases with obsolete products in markets which have changed quite dramatically.

The reason for this short-lived success story is the weak marketing performance of many British companies, and the root cause of this can be found in the two-thirds syndrome.

Two-thirds of British companies admit they are not good at marketing.

Two-thirds of British companies do not use market research, do not carry out planned design and development of new products, and do not train their sales forces.

Two-thirds of British managing directors have no major marketing or sales experience.

The result of these shortcomings is seen by the UK's 16th place ranking in the international marketing league, and its 13 per cent unemployment level compared with the less than 5 per cent for the leading six countries in the league which include Japan, the United States, Sweden and West Germany.

Not surprisingly, a country's marketing dynamism appears to have a close correlation with its economic prosperity and unemployment level.

There is no longer any doubt that marketing performance is the Achilles heel of many UK companies. The lessons from successful international competitors have not been learned and firms are still talking of manufacturing costs and prices as the only critical influences in world markets. They are not and never were, except in the commodity business, and even there effective companies have learned to emphasize other factors.

After six years of productivity and manufacturing efficiency gains, many UK companies improved their cost-competitiveness quite dramatically. But this did not produce the expected improvement in sales volume and market share, and with increasing costs, particularly on labour, hard-earned competitiveness is now being dissipated and profits are falling. Plant closures, labour shedding, product range reduction



The competitive and successful society must also be a caring society if it is to win the greatest rewards, says Tony McBurnie

tions and all the other rationalization moves are back again on many board agendas, as they move into another downward spiral of the vicious circle.

The reason in many cases is a lack of awareness of how the market environment has changed, with new, higher value-added products, aggressive competitors, and enhanced customer expectations. Tired, obsolete products and inadequately trained and motivated sales forces do not satisfy such expectations.

There is some awakening to the reality of this situation, as the response to Institute of Marketing initiatives with chief executives, government support for marketing, the schools marketing certificate and the television marketing series, demonstrate very clearly.

However, old attitudes die hard and the debates at the TUC, the

CBI and party political conferences place far too much emphasis on inward-looking considerations of minimum wage levels, infrastructure investment, tax rates and the rest, important as they are.

Far too little attention is given to the reasons why international competitors are decimating British industries, how they are developing new products and services to meet the needs of markets and customers which they have researched and analysed in detail, and how they prepare aggressive marketing strategies to enter and dominate new and established markets, which were once British.

Despite its history, or perhaps because of it, Britain does not have the competitive culture which Japan, the United States and West Germany have.

Perhaps our lead in the Industrial Revolution meant little real competition and our captive empire market blunted our marketing prowess. Also, our education and social culture directed us towards the professions rather than industry. Towards playing rather than winning? Whatever the reason, for our lack of international marketing success, it is clear that a culture change is essential. This change is taking place but it has to happen more quickly.

More chief executives need to change their own and their company's thinking towards the market-place, and to the preparation of aggressive, carefully thought through marketing strategies.

More government investment in marketing support is needed to strengthen medium-sized and small companies, with the inevitable payback in jobs from the increased manufacturing output needed to meet increased sales volume.

More executives need to be trained in the fundamentals of marketing and how to improve their performance in the market-place.

More emphasis is needed on developing the marketing strategies and effective organizations to match the needs of a fast-changing market environment, and less on ad hoc use of

marketing tools, tactics and jargon.

More effort is needed to communicate the critical impact of marketing performance on economic prosperity, employment and company profitability, to Parliament, business, the City, academia, the media and the public at large.

More thought needs to be given to attracting bright young people into the excitement and satisfaction of a career in marketing.

British companies now realize that growth and profit will not automatically result from manufacturing efficiency and cost-cutting. Much greater attention must be given to marketing strategy, defining markets, carrying out research, designing and developing the right products, the ones customers want, and selling them aggressively.

Unless emphasis is placed on much more effective marketing, the very high cost, in social, economic and human terms, of achieving and improving manufacturing performance will have been futile and a scandalous waste of talent.

How would the mantle of a highly competitive culture sit on British heads? Is economic and corporate prosperity worth the risk to our caring British way of life? Would a resurgence of international marketing competitiveness mean a swing to an even

more materialistic culture in this country? Was the junior school teacher right when she said competitive games should be stopped because they were too stressful for the children?

Without a much more competitive approach in international markets our share of world trade, which has fallen by more than half in the past 20 years, will tumble even further. The difficulties we are already experiencing in trying to fund the British way of life, will become so great that more and more cuts in community and personal services will be necessary.

We do not have a choice. We simply have to ensure that a competitive, successful society does not become an uncaring society. The rewards which flow from marketing dynamism, as we have seen, are low unemployment, low inflation and a prosperous nation - without many of the social problems associated with lack of business and economic success.

The challenge is a fundamental one, but it will not go away. The Institute of Marketing, as the national marketing body, has to be the catalyst in bringing these goals to a successful conclusion. It will not be easy, but it has to be achieved. The economic prosperity and the social well-being of the country depend on it.

Tony McBurnie is director general of the Institute of Marketing

APPOINTMENTS PHONE: 01-481 4481 - APPOINTMENTS PHONE: 01-481 4481

The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts Director

The Academy is a Government-supported multi-disciplinary, bi-cultural educational institution in Hong Kong training students at tertiary level in the field of dance, music and technical arts. A vacancy will occur for the post of Director in August 1987.

The Director is responsible to the Council of the Academy for its academic policy and management, in particular, for the development of the Academy as an educational force in the performing arts, and for its relationship with other institutions and authorities in Hong Kong and internationally. The Director may also be involved in some teaching.

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Applications should include full curriculum vitae, three passport sized photos and at least three references and should be addressed to the Chairman of Council at the above address, to be received not later than 5 January 1987. Late applications may be considered at the Chairman's discretion.

BESWICK'S FOODS

Beswick's Foods are a leading supplier of own label sauces and salad dressings to national and international retail and catering outlets. We are continuously expanding and developing and have two vacancies for dynamic Managers who are capable of working in a fast moving and changing environment.

PRODUCTION MANAGER

£15,000 + BENEFITS

The Production Manager we seek must be capable of embracing total responsibility for the production process and production planning. Reporting directly to the Factory Manager. Applicants should be educated to at least degree level in food technology or a related discipline with probably five years industrial experience. Whilst the immediate challenge will be to set up this job, applicants must have the determination and capacity to progress to a more demanding senior role within the organisation.

TECHNICAL MANAGER

£17,000 + BENEFITS

The Technical Manager we seek must be capable of embracing total responsibility for product development, customer liaison, taste panel and all management functions within the Quality Control Department. Applicants should be educated to degree level in food technology or a related discipline with indepth experience in industrial management.

Written applications (male/female) with full c.v. to:

Lynn Beswick, Personnel Director, Beswick Foods Ltd., New Mill Street, LITTLEBOROUGH, Lancs., OL15 8YL.

CJA

A combination of new product development and personal experience in an expanding life assurance company offering excellent promotion prospects.

ACTUARIAL EXECUTIVES - EMPLOYEE BENEFITS & LIFE PRODUCTS

£16,000-£25,000 + MORTGAGE SUBSIDY

LONG-ESTABLISHED U.K. SUBSIDIARY OF ONE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST FINANCIAL SERVICES ORGANISATIONS

On behalf of our clients, we invite applications from Senior Actuarial Students/Trainees with at least 4 years' experience in a Life Assurance company or Consultancy, 2 of which should have been in actuarial/employee benefits. The successful candidate, likely to be aged 25-32, will lead the team responsible for Risk Benefits and Individual Persons within the Employee Benefits Division or New Product Development within the Actuarial Department. These are senior appointments which will appeal to Actuarial students near to completing professional examinations, who are now keen to move to an organisation which encourages a creative, positive and marketing-oriented approach to new product development, liaison with clients and team motivation. Initial salary negotiable £16,000-£25,000 + mortgage subsidy, contributory pension scheme, free life insurance, free medical insurance, free lunches, study leave and assistance with relocation expenses. Reference AE 4455/TT. As a result of continued expansion, there are also vacancies for ACTUARIAL ASSISTANTS, with at least 3 parts of Part A examinations completed. Initial Salary negotiable £12,000-£16,000 + package. Reference AA 4456/TT. Applications, in strict confidence, either by telephone on 01-588 3114, or in writing, quoting reference above, to the Managing Director.

CAMPBELL-JENNISON ASSOCIATES (MANAGEMENT RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS) LIMITED, 35 NEW BRAD STREET, LONDON EC4M 3TH. TELEPHONE: 01-588 3588 OR 01-588 3576. TELEX: 817274. FAX: 01-256 8501

JAN 5/12?

Speak well and need £400+ pw? If so telephone me today if you can start in early January, are aged 23/50, reasonably intelligent, educated and able to work weekdays near Kings Cross.

Tel: Bill Smith on 01-278 3772 or 01-278 3669

AUSTRALIA

CSIRO

RESEARCH SCIENTIST/ SENIOR RESEARCH SCIENTIST

AS28,107 - AS41,339

DIVISION OF MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY PRESTON VIC

FIELD: Robotics and machine tool control.

The Division engages in research and development work to support Australian industry. Laboratories are located in Melbourne, Adelaide and Sydney. Its activities are organised into three main programs: Advanced Manufacturing Technology, Materials Engineering and Integrated Manufacturing. The latter program undertakes research in the areas of computer-aided design and manufacture, including robotics, machine tool control, machine vision, microelectronics, and manufacturing information technology.

An engineer is sought to conduct research into the dynamics and sensor-based control of robots and machine tools. The appointee will play a significant role in identifying new areas of research. Present work in this area included force/torque control of robots, deburring, high-bandwidth machining, dynamic modelling and simulation of machines, and development of an advanced robot controller. Significant opportunities exist for further collaborative research with equipment manufacturers, and the appointee will be expected to bring high-level skills in machine dynamics and system dynamics and control to such developments.

Applicants should have a PhD degree or equivalent qualifications with substantial experience in the areas described, and demonstrated ability in research. Experience in production industry is highly desirable.

This position is for appointment on an indefinite basis with Australian Government superannuation benefits.

APPLICATIONS: Submitting relevant personal particulars, including details of qualifications and experience, the names of at least two professional referees and quoting reference No A3677, should be directed to:

The Chief, CSIRO Division of Manufacturing Technology, Locked Mail Bag 9, Preston VIC 3072 AUSTRALIA

by 16 January, 1987.

CSIRO IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



Managing Director

Greater Manchester Economic Development Corporation

We have been retained as advisers to the Board of the Corporation in the search for a successor to Mr. Leslie Boardman who retires this year. The Corporation was established as a limited company to provide a bridge between the public and private sectors. Its Managing Director has a unique opportunity to manage development banking, land/property development and marketing resources, as an integrated and dynamic stimulus for economic growth in the communities of the Greater Manchester Area.

The ideal candidate for this position will:

- have all round general management experience;
- have a strong marketing background;
- be able to work effectively in public and private sectors.

Above all the position calls for an individual with real leadership qualities and a strong sense of personal commitment.

A starting salary of up to £35,000 plus an attractive benefits package is available. Please send details of experience, quoting Ref 6117, in confidence, to:

THE SEARCH PARTNERS

INTERNATIONAL Recruitment Consultants

29 Buckingham Gate, London SW1. Tel: 01-834 7966.

Calgary Düsseldorf London Montreal Ottawa Toronto Vancouver Zurich

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

We are a Nationally represented Company dealing in all areas of the Financial Services Industry. To complement our current growth in South-East England we are in need of 3-4 ambitious, career-minded people to work directly for the General Manager in the development of new offices. An attractive self-employed remuneration scheme is provided, and if you are aged between 25 and 35 and would like to know more about this exciting opportunity then please write, enclosing full c.v., in strictest confidence, to: Mr. J. McIntosh, The General Manager, FPS (Management) Ltd., 27/28 Southgate, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 1ES.

SALES AGENT TRAINEES

The City Business Machines Group are seeking aggressive, career-minded people to sell Office Equipment, Furniture and Stationery. Applicants should be aged 21-28 years and based in Greater London.

Experience in Sales is not essential as a full training package is offered together with an expected first-year salary of £12,000-£15,000, plus car purchase assistance. Please write enclosing your cv, to: Mr. K.A. Austin, 15/16 Alfred Place, London WC1 or Tel 01-631 0206.

CALIBRE CV's Ltd professional curriculum vitae documents. Details: 01-631 3368.

DYNAMIC City Publishing Co recruits London-based Advertising/Marketing Assistant (18-34 m/f) to work on Media Magazines. 26-28 hours per week for right person. CV and covering letter to John Watson, Chancery Publishing Limited, 86 Hatten Gardens, London EC1A 4DU.

EXPERIENCED PART TIME BOOK-KEEPER

required up to Trial Balance, Budgeting, Long Range Forecast, Stock Control, Paye, etc. Must have experience in the Retail Fashion Trade. Hours and salary by arrangement.

Please call 01 629 4005.

SALES EXECUTIVE - ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS

A dynamic sales executive required to expand sales of a recently established, high growth, worldwide only new service based in the computer industry. At present the service is available either by sales or direct mail to various computer users. The business is growing rapidly and other new products like with electronic transmission. So you must be able to sell, write, and work on your own initiative and drive. You must have the capacity to identify and develop new product opportunities in the electronic publishing sphere. Applicants must be able to negotiate at the highest level and be prepared to travel both at home and overseas. A dynamic, challenging publishing company, we offer a salary circa £17,000 for an 18 month period, a company car and the usual company benefits.

Apply to: Brian R. Orbell, Director, Metal Business PLC, Park House, Park Terrace, Worcester Park, Surrey, KT4 7HY

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS CONSULTANTS

FORM YOUR OWN CONSULTANCY WITH US

If you are currently in the Information & Communication systems consultancy business, familiar with the issues and looking for a new challenge and who would like to benefit from the development of their own client portfolio within the structure of an established 'umbrella' organisation. Our company will provide commercial strength, prestige offices and full administrative resources. You will provide the expertise and client contact base in the information & communication systems business, together with the drive to succeed and develop profitable market sectors. If you think that you have what it takes and are ready to make the necessary commitment then write to: Box 100, F&T

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

Phillips & Drew Corporate Finance

Company Liaison & Market Information Executive

Phillips & Drew is now wholly-owned by the Union Bank of Switzerland, one of the largest banks in the world, and is seeking an ambitious executive to join the Corporate Finance Department as a member of the Company Liaison & Market Information team which provides a continuous service to the Department's client companies.

As the successful applicant your responsibilities will be to cover the key areas of investor relations, market information and company announcements, to include specifically: monitoring the share price movements of the company and its competitors, advising client companies on profit statements and dividend policy, releasing figures to The Stock Exchange and hosting management/investor presentations and meetings.

If you are aged 25-30, with a good standard of education and can communicate effectively with top management, this could be the opportunity for you. An understanding of how the City works and a knowledge of Stock Exchange activities is essential.

We will reward you with an excellent compensation package to include a bonus, mortgage subsidy, pension scheme, free life assurance and free BUPA.

Please apply in confidence to:

Sally Walley, Recruitment Officer,
Phillips & Drew,
120 Moorgate, London EC2M 6XP

A member of the Union Bank of Switzerland Group.

Business-to-business direct marketing professionals

Mailplan International Limited, the market leaders in business-to-business direct marketing, seek applications from ambitious, capable and experienced individuals.

The people we need must demonstrate the ability to produce results in this demanding and growing marketplace. We attach considerable importance to the qualities of creative thinking, self-reliance, interpersonal skills, a strong desire to make things happen and, above all, the determination to achieve results for our clients.

There are outstanding senior career opportunities. As you would expect, rewards will be realistically pitched for the right people.

Write to Murray Watson, Marketing Director,
and tell him why you are the right person for the job.

Mailplan International Limited

45-47 Monument Hill Weybridge Surrey KT13 BSF Telephone (0932) 59700.



TRANSPORT MANAGER

Grade POD £19,041 p.a. - £20,625 p.a. inclusive

The Council wish to appoint a Manager in the Works Services Division of the Engineering Department to control the operation and maintenance of a mixed fleet of over 300 vehicles and the maintenance of approximately 1000 items of Plant.

A cost conscious approach to the provision of a competitive service to client departments is essential, and applications are invited from essential, with proven managerial and entrepreneurial skills relevant to the task. An Essential User Car allowance is payable. Fringe benefits. Flexitime is worked.

Application forms for the above post quoting reference number ENG/14/43X available from the Personnel Division, Civic Centre, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 3JW. Telephone: Uxbridge 50583 (24 hour answering service available). Closing date: 2nd January, 1987.

Hillingdon
Department of Engineering

Applications from disabled persons will be welcomed.

CONSULTANT ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

RTZ Computer Services, part of the international mining and mineral processing RTZ Group, advises clients upon the use of computer systems. One area in which there is proven potential for development of our services is that of systems for project, maintenance and materials management.

We are looking for a qualified engineer with a good degree and at least five years of first hand experience in the application of computer systems in engineering management, based upon direct line responsibility.

Reporting to the Consulting Director, he or she will handle a wide range of assignments both in the UK and abroad. The development of this area of competence will mean operating autonomously at times, although fully supported by our offices in London and Bristol.

The ability to establish close working relationships with clients, whilst maintaining objectivity, is essential. The appointed consultant must be as equally at home presenting proposals to a board of directors as training engineering tradesmen in the use of a computer system.

The remuneration package is substantial, including the benefits of the RTZ Group employee schemes, and a car will be provided.

Applications in writing should be sent to the Personnel Officer, RTZ Computer Services Limited at our Bristol address, enclosing full details of experience and qualifications.

RTZ Computer Services

RTZ Computer Services Limited,
1 Redcliffe Street, Bristol BS39 7JS
Telephone: Bristol (0272) 24181
Telex: 49657 RTZCS

TRAINING STANDARDS TO MATCH OUR SERVICES

ASSISTANT TRAINING OFFICER

Frizzell are a leading financial services group with a reputation for providing an excellent service to our clients.

We currently need a highly motivated young person to assist our Group Training Officer with the development of new training courses and the re-evaluation of existing programmes. Occasionally, you will also be designing non-course based material. In addition to analysing performance reviews and preparing statistical information, you will also provide strong administrative support within the department on a day to day basis.

Aged around 22-24, educated to 'A' level standard and preferably with instructional experience, the ideal candidate will already have administrative experience gained in a training or personnel department and will be required to have a strong belief in training plus an ability to adapt quickly to new situations.

Based in our head office, close to Liverpool Street Station, we can offer a competitive salary, plus an attractive range of benefits which include profit-sharing.

FRIZZELL

Please write with a full C.V. and stating salary expectations to Mrs. S. McGeechie, Group Personnel Manager, The Frizzell Group Limited, 14/22 Elder Street, London, E1 6DF.

ENGINEERING OPPORTUNITIES

Here at Peugeot Talbot UK we are going from strength to strength, with our Coventry built Peugeot 309 receiving wide acclaim, and another new car due to be launched in 1988.

We are now seeking experienced Engineers to make an effective contribution to our continued success. You will be working in a highly modernised environment well equipped to produce high quality current and future models.

Senior Process Engineers

You will head a team of process engineers responsible for the process of tooling assignments involving design, procurement, manufacture and tryout of tools required for body assembly operations.

We are seeking qualified senior engineers with a minimum of 15 years' process planning experience in body assembly operations and with proven experience of controlling and organising work of other engineers.

P.L.C. Computer Systems Engineer

You'll specialise in system design, specification, evaluation and programming of industrial P.L.C.'s linked to various computers which operate manufacturing plant, and via peripheral products produce fault diagnostic and management information.

You'll be required to analyse the sequential control of electrical and mechanical functions on current and proposed process equipment operated by P.L.C./Computer base. A key function will be to reconfigure/restructure systems in ladder diagrams and Pascal language formats to cater for future models and improved productivity and reliability.

Ideally of graduate engineer status with several years' project experience preferably within the motor industry.

We offer competitive salaries enhanced by valuable incentive and superannuation schemes and generous car purchase discounts. Relocation assistance will be provided where appropriate.

Please apply to N.C. Robinson, Personnel Administration/Training Manager, Peugeot Talbot Motor Company Limited, P.O. Box 48, London Road, Ryton on Tyne, Co. Durham, CV8 3ZJ. Telephone: (0203) 203030.



THE LION GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH.

BBC APPOINTMENTS

REPORTER

Television
Southampton

One of our best known reporters, Debbie Thrower, is now working with BBC Television News in London. We need to replace her with someone who is keen to develop a career as a television reporter. You will contribute to our regional programmes and network news and have the chance to present our highly-rated nightly news magazine *South Today*.

You'll need to be a journalist with radio or television experience, and a current driving licence is essential.

One year contract: £15,525 - £21,045** (Ref. 1398/T)

PRESENTATION ANNOUNCER

Television
Norwich

BBC South & East requires a television presentation announcer, based Norwich. Your duties, which are on a shift basis, will include reading news bulletins in a self-operated presentation studio during the day and in the context of the nightly magazine programme *Look East*, plus the bulletin following the *Nine O'Clock News*. You will also prepare and present continuity material and put out pre-recorded programmes from the self-operated studio.

Television experience essential. This post is offered as a 12 month contract - starting salary (including allowances) will be in the range of £12,571 - £13,654. (Ref. 1418/T)

**Plus an allowance of £1,020 p.a. Contact us immediately for application form (quote appropriate ref. and enclose s.a.e.) BBC Appointments, London W1A 1AA. Tel. 01-927 5795.

OPPORTUNITIES IN TRAINING

CITY SALARY PACKAGE c. £12K

The vacancies exist within our Training Division for Professional people aged 25-35 years. A bright personality, good communication skills and unflappable nature are necessary attributes for these challenging but rewarding positions.

MICRO COMPUTER TRAINER
Experience necessary with DOS operating system software packages. Additional training given if required.

WORD PROCESSOR TRAINER
Experience required with dedicated Word Processing such as Phillips and or Wang from Basic through to Advanced.



36/37 FURNIVAL ST. LONDON EC4A 3JQ
TELEPHONE 01-831 6894

MARKETING EXECUTIVE NEWSLETTERS

Financial Times Business Information is looking for an enthusiastic person to join a marketing team promoting a range of newsletter titles. You will be responsible for developing circulation through direct marketing campaigns and other promotional means. The ability to communicate well is vital.

Ideally you should have at least one years experience in marketing with some knowledge of direct mail techniques. Experience in a publishing environment would be useful but is not essential.

A good educational background is required together with a creative approach and a methodical analytical mind.

A competitive salary will be offered depending on experience together with 5 weeks holiday a year plus Lunchbox Vouchers.

Please send full cv to:

Steve Savan
Personnel Officer
FTB
Graylocks Place
Fetter Lane,
London EC4A 3ND

AUSTRALIA CSIRO ENGINEER/SCIENTIST

A\$28,107 - A\$41,339
DIVISION OF MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY
WOODVILLE SA

The Division engages in research and development work to support Australian industry. Laboratories are located in Melbourne, Adelaide and Sydney. Its activities are organised into three main programs: Arc Technology, Materials Engineering and Integrated Manufacture. The latter program undertakes research in the areas of computer-aided design and manufacture, including robotics, machine tool control, machine vision, microelectronics, and manufacturing information technology.

Recently a section of the Integrated Manufacture program has been set up in the Adelaide Laboratory. An engineer or scientist is required to conduct research in the areas of manufacturing information technology, including simulation, scheduling, resource planning, production and inventory control and warehousing.

Applicants should have a PhD degree or equivalent qualifications, with a sound theoretical background in areas such as knowledge-based systems, operations research or distributed control systems. Demonstrated ability in research is essential, and experience in production industry is highly desirable. Experience with the UNIX operating system and the C programming language would be an advantage.

TENURE: Indefinite with Australian Government superannuation benefits payable.

APPLICATIONS: Setting relevant personal particulars, including details of qualifications and experience, the names of at least two professional referees and quoting Reference No A5834, should be directed to:

Officer-in-Charge
Adelaide Laboratory
CSIRO Division of Manufacturing Technology
PO Box 4
WOODVILLE SA 5011 AUSTRALIA

By January 16, 1987

CSIRO IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

LUXURY LETS LONDON LTD

Require experienced residential letting negotiator to join our expanding and highly successful team in St Johns Wood. Applicants must have experience and a good knowledge of central London. Top salary plus commission, use of company car.

Tel for appointment: 01-328 9846

YOUR DEGREE COULD BE WORTH £18,000 BEFORE YOU GET IT.



If you're intending to take a degree course at a university or polytechnic, you could be worth a lot to us, now, as a future RAF Officer.

Whether on the ground or in the air, you would work with some of the most exciting technology in the world.

Right now, we are particularly interested in future Pilots, Navigators, Fighter Controllers, Air Traffic Controllers and both men and women Engineers and Education Officers.

SPONSORSHIPS

Our three-year University Sponsorship is worth £18,028* (if you are already at university or polytechnic, shorter Sponsorships are available). The Sponsorship prepares you for your future role as an RAF Officer. Although you will live exactly as any other undergraduate, you will also be a member of the Air Squadron affiliated to your university or polytechnic. Depending on the branch of the RAF you may become qualified for, you can also gain flying experience while still an undergraduate.

You would also have short periods of RAF training during term time, and gain practical experience in your chosen branch at RAF Stations in the UK, or even overseas, during some of your vacations.

The same Sponsorships are available for courses leading to a B.Eng. degree in Mech-



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For these and many other positions within the Computing Industry Contact:

MARTIN MELLISH
THE ACTIVE GROUP
01-388 3111

LONDON'S LEADING COMPUTING
SALES CONSULTANCY
or send CV's to:

THE ACTIVE GROUP (UK LTD), Euston
House, 81-103 Euston Street, London NW1

ENGLISH SPEAKING PUBLICATION IN SPAIN

is looking for a commercial minded Spanish National with a proven track record for the position of Office Manager. The successful candidate will speak fluent Spanish and English, be numerate and have an actual interest in the affairs and events of the Costa Del Sol. Terms will be negotiated according to the individual and his or her experience and ability.

Please write with full cv to:
KJR/1,
13/15 Davies Street
London W1.

MANAGER

required by a progressive and ambitious soft furnishings and linen retailer. We are looking for someone with experience, ambition, organisational abilities and pleasant personality. Salary negotiable.

Apply with full details:

The Linen Chest
81/83 High Street
Ruislip
Middlesex HA4 8JB
Tel: Ruislip 0895 630828



UNITED ENGINEERING STEELS LTD. MANAGER - TRAINING DEVELOPMENT

BROOKFIELD MANOR MANAGEMENT TRAINING & CONFERENCE CENTRE, HATHERSAGE, SHEFFIELD.

There is an opportunity for an experienced Management Trainer to join an established and successful team at Brookfield Manor Management Training and Conference Centre located in the Peak District National Park near Hathersage.

In addition to providing Management, Supervisory, Teamwork Development and specialist training to the Divisions of United Engineering Steels Ltd., the Centre also provides a similar range of training and facilities to industry in general and to the steel industry in particular.

We are seeking to strengthen the team by appointing a Manager - Training Development, responsible to the Centre Manager, whose major responsibilities will be marketing, development and management of Team Training and other Organisational Development activities. The further development of management and specialist training courses and methods.

The successful applicant will be qualified to degree or equivalent level, will have worked in manufacturing industry and have experience in the development and presentation of Management/Supervisory Training and Organisation Development Programmes.

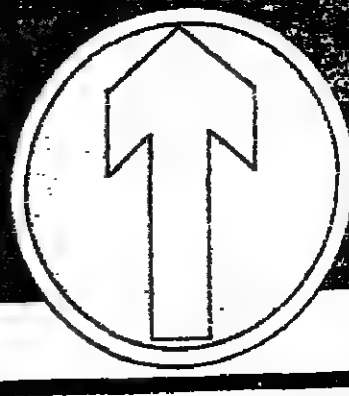
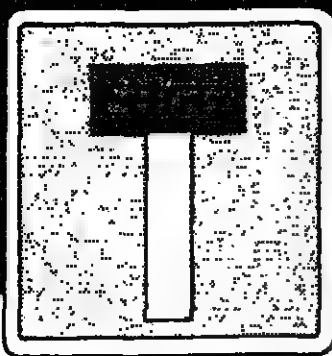
Reflecting the importance of this appointment a salary within the range of £16,000-£18,000 p.a. is envisaged but could be negotiable for the right candidate.

Applications should be sent to: Manager, Brookfield Manor Management Training & Conference Centre, Hathersage, Sheffield, S3D 1BR.

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

Dead ends, no. Openings, yes.

Ask **ALFRED MARKS**



GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

Salesmen/Market Makers

A successful independent firm of stockbrokers is seeking to increase its level of activity in both UK and overseas markets by recruiting additional staff. Skilled, highly motivated, committed men or women, specialising in institutional sales or market making, who may be finding life in the post Big-Bang era less than fulfilling, and who would prefer to operate in a more

traditional but nevertheless exciting and forward looking environment, are invited to write, in confidence to:

E ST V Troubridge,
Kynaston International,
Edman House, 17/18 Maddox Street,
London W1R 0EY.

**KYNASTON
INTERNATIONAL**

WEST LAMBETH HEALTH AUTHORITY ST. THOMAS' HOSPITAL, London SE1 RESEARCH SECRETARY - CARDIAC DEPARTMENT

To work in this busy department as Research Assistant/Secretary to the Consultant Cardiologist.

This is a challenging and varied job involving contact with private patients and administrative duties.

Salary subject to negotiation, up to £9,000.

For application form contact the Personnel Department on (01) 261 1185 (24 hours) quoting job reference R/10.

Closing date: 8th January 1987.

An Equal Opportunities Employer.

P.A./Accounts Controller (Experienced)

For small publishing company to handle payments in and out, help on busy office, and provide some secretarial assistance for managing director. Salary by agreement.

Apply to:

Coffin Leicester,
John Calman & King Ltd,
71 St. Russell St.
London WC1B 3BN
Tel 01-831 6351

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Required for specialist Department in Central London Estate Agency. Must be competent, have initiative, good secretarial skills and an ability to administer. Age 20-35, driving licence. Salary £10,000 pa.

Tel 221 3534
ref JMH

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT

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or after 6pm on
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Requires outward going friendly reception staff for exciting new club in Notting Hill Gate, London. £7,500 p.a. bonus.

Call Hugh Barton
01 995 4600

SECRETARY/ BOOK-KEEPER

Required for small SW1 Interior Design Company. Salary negotiable. Telephone 01 222 8755

BANKING & ACCOUNTANCY

IMPERIAL CANCER RESEARCH FUND

Deputy Trust Officer

ICRF is Europe's largest independently financed cancer research institute, it is a registered charity and relies completely on public support in its continuing fight against cancer.

The Deputy Trust Officer will participate in the day to day management of our Legacy Department and be involved in the planning and introduction of a new computer data base.

Age 35+. Office management experience, possibly in a legal environment, essential. Knowledge of probate work and some computer experience an advantage.

Salary range £12,000 to £14,000 with scope for further progression.

For further information and application form write to Ms S M Hurley, Imperial Cancer Research Fund, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, WC2A 3PX quoting ref: 31/87.

SALES EXECUTIVES

THE COMPANY Beacon Publications PLC publish international business journals and directories in Europe, the Middle East and Far East and are winners of the Queen's Award for Export in 1985 and 1986.

THE PERSON must be a self starter, ambitious, with a strong selling background. Previous experience in directory advertising would be an advantage.

THE BENEFITS Beacon Publications PLC are a fast moving company that are looking for the best. Therefore a good basic salary + commission will be offered to the right candidates and the package will be circa £18,000.

Telephone TREVOR ROBERTS
Assistant Group Advertisement Manager

BEACON PUBLICATIONS PLC
100 Market Street, 10th Floor, London EC3A 3PP
Telephone 01-4777 1111 Fax 01-4777 1111

SENIOR ADMINISTRATOR c. £50,000 (nett)

Brussels based international organisation seeks a senior executive for a fixed 2/3 year contract to co-ordinate EEC affairs. Proven administrative ability and experience in dealing with Governments and fluent French are essential. Other community languages would be an advantage.

Please write with full C.V. to:
Ian Macpherson, Shipley Blackburn and Company,
14-15 Regent Street, LONDON SW1Y 4PS.

SB Shipley Blackburn Chartered Accountants

RESEARCH/ SALES

Stock Exchange Member firm requires individual with 6/7 years' experience in computer-driven, quantitative analysis research/sales. Applicants should have knowledge of multi-tasking distributed inventory management systems; recursive/heuristic A.I. techniques. Responsibilities will include design and management of computer software programmes as they relate to U.S. and U.K. equities traded options and futures in specific area of risk management, the marketing of results to institutional client base in U.K./Europe, U.S.A. Candidates ideally will have experience in field of software design in U.S. as well as internationally.

Salary circa £27,500.

Applicants educated to BA standard, and aged 25-30, should write enclosing full career details to

Box F86

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By leading firm of West London Agents due to 3rd office opening in new year. Excellent income potential and prospects for early advancements.

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Paul or Simon Franklin
on 01-579 6901/8862.

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RUGBY LEAGUE

Bamford quits as Britain's coach owing to wife's illness

By Keith Macklin

Maurice Bamford yesterday resigned as Great Britain coach. His wife, Rita, suffers from multiple sclerosis and he wants to spend more time at home with her.

In his letter of resignation, Bamford said he would stay in the post until after the two international matches against France on January 24 and February 8.

Bamford organized and conducted the training sessions leading up to the recent series against Australia under the burden of knowing that his wife's condition was deteriorating.

If he remained in charge of Great Britain, he would have to take the touring party to Australia in 1988, and he feels that, by then, his wife's condition will be so critical that he could not possibly leave her for the duration of the three-month tour.

Bamford said yesterday, in a poignant message to Rugby League officials and Great Britain players: "It has been my lifelong ambition to become a British Lion and take touring party to Australia, but there comes a time when family duties and responsibilities — and common humanity — must take precedence."

Bamford coached Dewsbury, Halifax, Huddersfield, Bramley, Wigan and Leeds

before being appointed to the Great Britain post two years ago.

Though Bamford intends to quit international coaching, he says he would like to continue as a club coach — preferably in his native Yorkshire.

Choosing a successor will be a difficult job for the Rugby League. There are obvious candidates in Alex Murphy, coach of St Helens, the undefeated championship leader, Peter Fox, the Leeds coach, and Malcolm Reilly, who coaches Castleford.

Fox was in charge of Great Britain when they lost the 1978 series against Australia 2-1, and he has the distinction of having coached the last Great Britain team to beat the Kangaroos. But, so far, his Leeds side have had a poor season in the championship.

Murphy's controversial style does not endear him to everybody, and he has not been a serious contender for the international coaching post for some years, while Reilly, a long-term servant of Castleford, is untried at international level.

Outsiders could be John Sheridan, who has masterminded Doncaster's revival, and Roger Millward, of Hull Kingston Rovers.

HORSE TRIALS

Windsor's new sponsor

By Jenny MacArthur

Beefeater Steakhouses are the new sponsors of the Windsor three-day event, which takes place from May 22 to 24 under Princess Anne's presidency.

Beefeater previously sponsored Robert Lemieux, the international three-day event rider, who received £30,000 a year. But Lemieux has six advanced horses, headed by The Gamesmaster, and two novices in his yard for next year, and had asked for substantially more money in 1987. Beefeater then decided to end their two-year contract.

Bob Dixon, the operations development manager for Beefeater, said: "Robert has ambitious which we felt we couldn't do justice. So it was decided, amicably, to part."

coincidence that the end with Robert coincides with the start of sponsorship with Windsor. We hope to continue to support Robert in some way."

A happier surprise greeted Sarah Kellard, the event rider from South Yorkshire, yesterday when she won the 1987 Range Rover training award for a young rider.

Miss Kellard, aged 20, moves to Gatcombe Park in February to spend the competitive season with the event rider, Captain Mark Phillips and the Range Rover team. She will take two horses with her: Osberton Holly (eighth at the European young riders championship) and Heli Henry (winner of the senior individual Pony Club championship).

GYMNASTICS



Rifle: Oksana Omelchenko, the co-world champion, who appears at Wembley on Saturday

A star rises from the East

By Peter Aitken

The Kraft International at Wembley this Saturday has gained a major attraction for the women's competition. She is the diminutive Oksana Omelchenko, the joint world champion from the Soviet Union, who combines technical expertise with a scintillating ability to play to the audience.

An elfin 4ft 7in tall, she has an impish grin accentuated by a wide mouth. Her prowess is demonstrated best by her floor exercise, in which she blends spectacular tumbling skills with well-executed dance moves.

For example, her winning routine at the Montreal world championships last year included a unique tumbling pass of back flips, somersaults and twists across the mat, which continued back immediately along the same diagonal.

However, as might be expected, Miss Omelchenko is a skater in her home city of Kiev, but the age of seven she was spotted as having the physical and mental abilities demanded of a promising gymnast. Before long, she was a pupil at the Spartak special school for sport, typical of its kind in the USSR

where promising young sportspeople receive training. She is now based at the renowned Dynamo Club in Kiev with the same coach she has had from the start — Tatiana Pershaya.

She trains four hours a day on average: three hours are spent on her work-out, and another one hour on the dance and choreography so vital to top Soviet gymnasts. Next autumn she will go to the Institute of Education in Kiev where she will embark on a four-year course in gymnastics coaching. At school she is artistically inclined and enjoys drawing and writing.

She will defend her joint world title in Rotterdam in the autumn of 1987 too, with the aim of winning the title outright. What is certain is that her charisma will charm world-wide audiences just as much as her skills will impress them. All being well, she could be a leading light of the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

Perhaps the ultimate accolade for Oksana Omelchenko has been expressed recently by Andrei Rodnichenko, "She is a real talent. Let us remember Olga Korbut who won the world with the same expressiveness."

RUGBY UNION

Take the pressures off World Cup men

Britain's leading rugby players should be ordered to take a complete break from competitive rugby the minute the Five Nations championship programme is completed.

That is the view of the Cardiff captain, Alan Phillips, winner of 15 Welsh caps, whose club would, ironically, be among those hardest hit by such a move.

"The World Cup has to take preference over everything this season, if it was left to me no one involved in that competition would play once the Five Nations matches are over," he said.

"Clubs wouldn't like it because the Cup semi and final in England and Wales won't have been played by then. But the demands on the top players are going to be so great this season, that you have to take the pressure off them."

"Leaving it to the players themselves won't — that's been shown by the way everyone's ignored the requests to restrict the number of matches they play in. But if the home unions take it out of their hands, no one can argue, and the players won't feel duty-bound to carry on playing for their clubs."

Phillips pointed out that his own club have plenty to lose — they could end up supplying as many as seven players to the Welsh World Cup squad. For a club accustomed to Cup success — Cardiff have reached five of the last six Schweppes Welsh Cup finals, winning four of them — losing so many key players would be a serious blow.

"If you've got to get it from the top, you can't blame clubs wanting to use their best players if there's no directive on this."

Phillips was the last of his Welsh caps 15 years ago but has given up all hope of an international recall, especially as the Wales trial was such an inconclusive affair. If he does make it back to the international arena, he would clearly appreciate having a tough club-or-country dilemma solved for him.

Merit change suits Bath

Two of Saturday's scheduled John Smith's Merit Table A matches have had their merit status removed, and will be played as club fixtures.

The Gloucester and Leicester, who face Bristol, made successful appeals to the English merit tables organising committee after losing several first-choice players to Thorn-EMI Divisional Championship matches.

In Bath's case, John Palmer, the former England centre, is the only first-team regular free of such commitments. But Harlequins, who themselves have played on call with the London squad, and another six injured, were unhappy with the change.

A club spokesman claimed that "de-meriting" was undermining the competition. The Gloucester and Leicester, who are at the top of the Merit Table A, a chance to play their All Black scrum half, David Lovegrove.

Trying to create a better game through discussion

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

When the Five Nations committee met in London this month to discuss the forthcoming championship, referees and coaches from the four home countries and France were able, for the first time, to discuss mutual problems.

Hitherto, coaches had not been invited to this annual meeting, but Martin Green (England), Derrick Grant (Scotland), Michael Doyle (Ireland) and Tony Gray (Wales) found it a valuable experience.

It is a natural extension to the annual coaching conferences that Wales, Ireland and Scotland hold each close season, when the opportunity is usually given for coaches and referees to discuss mutual problems. In Ireland, for instance, the top 30 referees hold a parallel conference every second year.

England have no such formal gathering. The leading referees, secretaries and assessors hold a sequence of meetings and, at Twickenham in August, there was a referees' conference that was attended by leading players and technical administrators.

Another such conference is planned for next August, but there is a feeling in England that the other home countries have made a greater advance in this area.

At this month's meeting, referees and coaches discussed law interpretation, and the Five Nations committee gave their judgements when differences of opinion arose.

Jean-Pierre Romen represented the French coaching panel, but New Zealand, whose Keith Lawrence will handle the games between France and Scotland and Wales, did not accept an invitation to attend.

Between them, Green, Grant, Gray and Doyle discussed considerable common ground, which, broadly speaking, may be summarised under four counts — time and preparation available now that the international season has virtually become a year-long affair rather than three months; consistency of refereeing interpretation; the desire to ensure that the game is played by people on their feet; and the quantity of play, which is obviously linked to the previous point.

"Consistency of interpretation from game to game, and during individual games, is important," Gray said. "If an area of the game is to be worked on for the improvement of the game, it has to be refereed consistently throughout the game."

Eoin Doyle (Ireland) will handle the Calcutta Cup match at Twickenham on January 17, while Wales v Ireland on the same day will be a French appointment.

A French referee will also take the Ireland-England game on February 7, while Colin High, the newcomer to English refereeing, will referee the France-Wales game in Paris.

Jim Fleming (Scotland) takes the England-France game on February 21 and Roger Quinlan, an English referee, will take the Scotland-Ireland game on the same day, which means that Fred Howard, the third member of England's panel, will be without a game in international this championship.

On March 7, Ray Messon (Scotland) will handle Wales v England, while France v Scotland and, on March 21, Scotland v Wales go to Keith Lawrence. The final game, Ireland v France, is a Welsh appointment, but their panel will not be chosen until next month.

Universities' call-up for Bradford player

By David Hands

Bradford University, surprise quarter-finalists in this season's Universities' Football Union (UAFU) competition, will have a representative in the English Universities team to play Irish University at Cork on January 8. David Kennell, their wing forward, has been chosen to represent the team, details of which will be confirmed later this week.

The UAFU held trials at Richmond on Tuesday before selectors from their four regions set down to decide the team to visit Ireland. It will be the first of three internationals for the English Universities, the others coming against Scottish Universities at Richmond on January 16, the eve of the Calcutta Cup match, and Welsh Universities on March 6, at a Welsh venue.

The English team in Cork is also likely to include Will Carling, the Durham University centre who has made such an impression this season in the North's divisional side.

Durham, as well as Bradford, are through to the UAFU quarter-finals, which will be played on January 28. Indeed, the semi-finals, on February 11, are bound to include a new name, since neither Bradford nor their

opponents, the University of Wales College of Medicine, have reached that far before.

QUARTER-FINAL DRAWS: Durham v Swansea; University of Wales College of Medicine v Bradford v Nottingham; Loughborough v Reading.

● Ian McKie, the Sale forward, comes into the Anglo-Scots XV for their third match in the McEwan's inter-district championship on Saturday, when they play Edinburgh at Myreside. He replaces Chris Gray, the Nottingham lock, who strained a shoulder against the South of Scotland last weekend and will be out for six weeks.

ANGLO-SCOTS: (v Edinburgh) S Irvine (London Scottish); S Bessley (London Scottish); D O'Connor (London Scottish); P Patterson (London Scottish); T Eather (London Scottish); G Gunning (Cambridge University); D Sale (Bath); K Kirk (London Scottish); J Field (London Scottish); J Morrison (London Scottish); J MacKie (Sale); C MacDonald (Oxford University); J Jones (London Scottish).

● David Morrow and Terry McMaster celebrated their call-up earlier this week to Saturday's Irish trial at Lansdown Road, by scoring Bangor's first try in their 11-6 win over Ballymena in the final of the Bass Boston Cup (George Ace writes). It was Bangor's seventh win in the competition.

Masters blow too much for Haden

Andy Haden has returned to New Zealand prematurely after his side, Ponsonby, were surprisingly beaten on the opening day of the Masters' cup tournament in Toulouse, Brive, Agen and Bayonne (Chris Thru writes).

Haden, who captained his club to the day, was disappointed with their performance in the 21-15 defeat against Constanta, of Romania, that he left immediately for an early flight home. The All Blacks have even threatened to quit playing altogether, an entirely possible outcome according to his fellow New Zealander, Mark Brooke-Cowden.

Haden's arch-rival, the Romanian veteran, George Dumitru, aged 35, won a substantial share of the ball in the lineout and led his men to a well-deserved victory.

In another first round match, Toulouse beat Argentine champions, Banco Nacion, 32-22 after a spectacular encounter. The Masters tournament has a rejuvenating effect on some of the older players, as proved by the evergreen captain of Pumas, Hugo Porta, who scored 16 points in the Franco-Argentine thriller.

The double-dealing history of the America's Cup

The razzmatazz, media hype, and a secret surrounding the America's Cup has encouraged a plethora of books to coincide with the first Australian defence.

The one I found most enjoyable however, Doug Riggs' *Keelhauls — Unsportsmanlike Conduct and the America's Cup* (Stanford Maritime, £12.95) does not cover the current antics in Fremantle at all. Instead it recalls all the shenanigans and double dealings that have gone on throughout the 132-year history of the Cup.

The original syndicate members who commissioned the schooner America that came to Cowes and won the original Cup were not above a little double dealing themselves.

The famous yacht was built at a cost of \$30,000 with the proviso that she would be completed by April 1, 1851 and prove faster than any vessel of her tonnage. If she failed on either count, the syndicate's penalty clause allowed them to refuse her and owe nothing.

In fact, she was launched a month late and lost her first race on the smooth waters of the Hudson estuary against Maria, a sloop owned by one of the syndicate members. Maria was no match for America in open water and the schooner was never beaten again but this did not stop the owners from screwing her builder to a \$10,000 loss on the price, then selling her for a \$5,000 profit immediately after winning the Cup.

I found it impossible to put *Seamanship*, by Robin Knox-Johnston (Hodder & Stoughton, £12.95) down, it being the best nautical read of the year. Robin Knox-Johnston is of the old school. A master mariner, who learned the ropes the hard way — as a lad in the Merchant Navy. He was taught to do things by the book or face the consequences, and it has stood him in good stead ever since helping this intrepid yachtsman to become the first to circum-

navigate the world alone non-stop and conquer many other feats. "I've not lost a boat in more than 500,000 miles of sailing," is an oft quoted achievement Knox-Johnston is rightly proud of. He's a cautious sailor, who thinks every move ahead, never pushing boat or equipment to the limit — even when racing.

I learned that after joining him aboard his catamaran, British Airways, for a round-the-world prize off Martinique last year. The French boats had all streaked ahead, their weather hulls flying into distant clouds of spray while ours remained stoically level.

"Could she carry more sail?" I remarked rashly. "Perhaps she could, but it's not seamanlike to sail that close to the edge," came the withering reply.

Knox-Johnston's latest book, *Seamanship*, is a comprehensive textbook all aspiring sailors should read. One item I was surprised to miss however, was any mention of the portable sacrificial kick-board I know Knox-Johnston always takes aboard to direct his anger against on the odd occasion when things go awry. Perhaps he broke it.

The safety and ability of so-called offshore yachts to survive heavy weather was questioned in 1979 when the Fastnet race turned into tragedy. Six years later, a large percentage of the entries in both the Fastnet and Sydney-Hobart classics were again crippled in conditions that were by no means exceptional.

Clearly, lessons had not been learned. The evidence pointed to boats being too lightly constructed and to designers becoming increasingly difficult to handle once the winds begin to howl. Tony Marchaj, an independent scientist specialising in aerodynamics and former Fellow at Southampton University, has spent two years studying the effects of strong winds and high seas have on yachts. Sea-

sports writers of The Times continue their selection from the sporting books of the year. Today Barry Pickthall, Stuart Jones and Michael Seely make their choices from the worlds of yachting, football and racing respectively.

Worthiness — *The Forgotten Factor* (Adlard Coles, £14.95) is a compilation of his findings, written in the hope of influencing the International Offshore Rule, the principle rating formulae concealing current design failings. This is a weighty tome in every respect, filled with formulae, graphs, reports and test results, that raises as many questions as it answers.

The first clues towards establishing what has made New Zealand's "Plastic Fantastic" the yacht to beat in the current America's Cup challenge trials have been revealed by Chris Freer in his book, *The Twelve-Metre Yacht — Its Evolution and Design 1906-1987* (Nautical Books, £15.00). Freer, assisted by Peter Bateman who acted as project manager during the embryonic stages of the New Zealand challenge, suggests their 12-metre, the first to be moulded in glass-reinforced plastic (GRP), could be as much as 30 per cent stiffer than the alloy boats built by the competition. Lloyds Register of Shipping, who administer the scantling rules of this class and had a surveyor on hand throughout the construction of the three New Zealand 12-metres, have said the benefit is nearer 20 per cent, but this still represents a significant advantage in controlling the rig.

Looking for a stocking filler? The quiz book *Top Marks by Bill Beavis* (Nautical Books, £3.95) will test even the best sailing brains.

From the same author comes *Bolt*, (Joseph, £9.95). Once again the breakneck pace and the frightening extremes are compelling as Kit Flecting, the champion stepchild jockey, beats his rivals with wit and intelligence and crisp compassion and *Bolt* is one of the best of his efforts.

On an entirely different note is *Travelling the Turf 1987*, (Kensington West production, £12.50 in paperback, £15 hardback). An immense improvement on its predecessor, it offers

There has, as usual, been no shortage of football reference and quiz books. Lightweight annuals and autobiographies on offer this year. Equally, there has, as usual, been a lack of publications of a weightier nature, even though the summer was illustrated by the finals of the World Cup in Mexico.

England's manager offers an insight into a whole new world ended at the hands (or, more specifically, the left fist of Maradona) of the eventual winners, Argentina, in the quarter-finals. *Bobby Robson's World Cup Diary* (Willow Books, Collins, £9.95) carries the sub-title "no near and yet so far."

Perhaps, but the phrase is also relevant to his own proximity to the truth as he himself admits. He reveals, for instance, that he was consistently misleading about the injuries that troubled Bryan Robson during the build-up to the tournament and effectively limited his contribution to little more than two hours.

"I have never felt happy about telling a whole lie," he writes. Yet, in the tunnel of the London Coliseum minutes after the end of England's victory over Mexico, he "put on a brave face to the media" and stated that Bryan Robson had not dislocated his shoulder. He had.

Later, after England's captain had damaged his hamstring in training, "we lied to the watching press and said that he had twisted an Achilles tendon."

Bryan Robson's leg was not the only one to be pulled but for the sake of tactics rather than for more sinister reasons.

The book, which covers the four years of Robson's national managerial career, is otherwise disappointingly straightforward.

Humour, sadly overlooked in the game overall, appears only briefly. When asked what might

be worth buying in Tbilisi, Don Howe, England's amiable coach who is always armed with a joke, suggests "airline tickets."

Wilkins, an equally affable member of the England squad, responded to a half-time instruction to "get hold of the No 8" in the Soviet Union side by saying that: "The only way I'd do that is if you give me a motorbike." The road to Mexico was not always full of laughter.

Robson describes the days when Vernon Edwards, the team doctor, suffered a massive heart attack and Linford Christie, a suspected broken wrist. Happily, both recovered. He mentions "the three envelopes" left for him by his predecessor, Ron Greenwood, which were to be opened in times of trouble.

The first, read after the defeat by Denmark at Wembley, advised him to "blame me. The second, after the loss against Wales at Wrexham, advised him to "blame the Football League."

The third, after successive defeats by Scotland, Italy and Mexico in 1985, advised him to "write three envelopes."

The *Rothmans Year Book* (Queen Anne Press, £9.95), now in its seventeenth year, offers a comprehensive record. Among the 960 pages are details of the past, such as the line-ups of the four home countries since 1872, to the present, such as the weight of each professional attached to the English and Scottish League clubs.

The strongest recommendation is reserved for *Pardon Me For Living* (George Allen and Unwin, £9.95), which was first published in 1985. The autobiography of Geoffrey Green, a former football correspondent of *The Times* who once told the Queen that he wanted the FA Cup final to be contested "between fun and laughter," is a delight.

hates, "What does your daddy do?" a child is asked, "he goes to London every day, goes into pubs, cashes cheques and gives the change to mummy." A winning account of a loser's life.

Briefly, these are also recommended: *Men and Horses I Have Known* (reprinted by Allen, £9.50). The Hon George Lambton's first edition for 23 years of fashion, racing and training at the turn of the century. *Turf Account*, (Macdonald Queen Anne Press, £9.95). Steve Smith-Eccles and Alan Lee. An account of a year of an irrepressible character and born jockey jockey survivor. *The Encyclopedia of Flat Racing*, (Robert Hale, £14.95), updated and enlarged by Howard Wright, is a comprehensive A to Z, and a must for serious students.

Francis unravels the secret world of Piggott

Lester, *The Official Biography* by Dick Francis (Michael Joseph, £12.95) towers head and shoulders above all other books about racing this year.

Fred Archer, Sir Gordon Richards and Piggott are acknowledged as the three greatest jockeys to have graced the British turf. Francis, through conversations taped over 12 years has succeeded in unravelling the secrets of the baffling personality, who dominated racing for over 25 years.

In reality there were no secrets. Piggott was a journeyman and craftsman, pure and simple, who by dedication, application and sheer physical courage honed his art to a record nine Derbys and be champion jockey on 11 occasions.

Racing has been a close-mouthed profession for over 200 years. And Piggott was his lesson early. When he won his first race on The Chase at Haydock Park in 1948, the boy, aged 12, knew that the second horse had not been running on its merits. Years later he laughed, but as he rode into the unsaddled enclosure the famous pucker face was in evidence. "He stood 4ft 6in in his racing boots and weighed less than four stone and already knew what not to say in public, a lesson some adults never learn."

Piggott is above all a very human man with a close-knit and devoted family. His dry wit has long been a byword and his quiet cover reflects wisdom, calmness and humour, etched

with the lines of experience. I particularly liked the ending. Piggott, asked how long he would continue riding if it had been possible to stop the clock of time, answered immediately: "A thousand years."

From the same author comes *Bolt*, (Joseph, £9.95). Once again the breakneck pace and the frightening extremes are compelling as Kit Flecting, the champion stepchild jockey, beats his rivals with wit and intelligence and crisp compassion and *Bolt* is one of the best of his efforts.

On an entirely different note is *Travelling the Turf 1987*, (Kensington West production, £12.50 in paperback, £15 hardback). An immense improvement on its predecessor, it offers

a comprehensive guide to British racecourses, the surrounding countryside and recommended hotels, pubs and restaurants.

Januaty compiled it describes Royal Ascot as "50,000 people in search of Terry Wogan." Beautifully illustrated paintings by modern artists such as Neil Cawthorne and Jackie Jones as well as established masters like Manx, it even offers a guide to punting and picking winners. An entertaining guide to the prime time path of what the turf offers its addicts.

Changing mood again is: *Low Life*, (Duckworth, £9.95) by Jeremy Bernard. Bernard would have been proud of this writer as he threads his meandering way through the betting shops, pubs, clubs, boxing and snooker halls of the London he loves and

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Tenacious Border has his sights set on that winning century

From John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent, Hobart, Tasmania

"The forecast for Hobart is for rain, strong south-westerlies, low cloud, poor visibility and a maximum temperature of 62 degrees," said the captain of the flight from Melbourne, and that is much as it was when the England cricketers arrived here yesterday for their four-day match against Tasmania, due to start today. There was no play, because of the weather, in the corresponding match against the Indians a year ago, and not since 1970-71 have England played in Hobart without the cricket being rain-affected.

Tasmania's overseas player this time is Richard Ellison, who has been bowling well for them. In 1982-83, when England were here last, Tasmania had Michael Holding, of West Indies and Derbyshire, and Roland Butcher, of Middlesex and Barbados. They had Brian Davidson before that, preceded by John Hampshire and Jack Simmons. If we get a start today the rivalry between Small, Foster and Ellison will be as keen as it is friendly.

There is disappointing news of Bruce French, who has pains in his chest and went straight to bed on reaching Hobart. The reserve wicketkeeper's job, especially when you are the better of the wicketkeepers, is a thankless enough without having to miss a rare chance of a game.

Should an emergency arise, Alec Stewart, of Surrey, and Graeme Fowler, of Lancashire, both of whom can 'keep a bit, are in Australia.

If England's present schedule is oppressive, it is scarcely more so than what most of the Australians who took part in the last Test match have to cope with. England play here from today until Sunday evening, on Monday morning they fly to Canberra for a one-day game against the Prime Minister's XI on Tuesday. On Tuesday evening they fly from Canberra back to Melbourne, reaching their hotel not long before midnight. Criss-crossing the continent yesterday were the Victorians, on their way to play Western Australia in Perth today, and the South Australians, who were bound for Sydney for a match with New South Wales.

As Queensland are without a game, Border had a rare chance of flying back to Brisbane for a glimpse of his family. Since the first Test match, when his head was being widely called for, he has not only consolidated his position as captain but also made further progress through the ranks of Australia's leading run-scorers.

His Test record compares now with all but Bradman's. In 87 Test matches Greg Chappell scored 7,110 runs at an average of 53.86. Border, who played his 77th Test match in Adelaide, has scored 6,785 runs and has an average of 53.43. No one has scored more runs for Australia than Chappell but Border soon will have. Aged 31, Border is still young and fit enough to overtake even Gavaskar, the

leader of the field, with 9,572 runs at an average of 50.64. Now 37, Gavaskar's days are numbered.

So how good is Border, not simply as an accumulator of runs but as an all-round batsman. He has to rate very highly indeed. Since being saddled with the captaincy two years ago, something he has none too keen to have, he has gone in more often than not with his side in trouble. They have been pre-occupied as a rule, either with saving the follow-on or avoiding an innings defeat. No Test captain has ever had to try to save so many desperate causes. Only someone with resilience, immense determination and great skill could have made the runs, under constant stress, that Border has.

If he snapped after England had won the first Test match at Brisbane last month, that was not because he is a bad loser but as a reaction to the intemperate criticism of his own performance. It is perfectly true that he is not the greatest of communicators on the field. When his side take a wicket he is usually the last to join the mob of players to be seen carrying on with their immediate enthusiasm. He lacks the charisma of Richie Benaud or the socratic of Ian Chappell; he is not a born tactician or an inspiring leader; but as a batsman he commands the highest respect and by his tenacity his players judge him.

Border set a new trend among Australians when, a dozen or so years ago, he became a full-time professional cricketer. To make it worth his while he knew that what he needed then was a method that worked, whether or not it was aesthetically pleasing. He had the good fortune, or good sense, not to join World Series cricket. He was much better off, as a young man, playing for Australia against England in the Test matches of 1978-79 than he would have been having his block knocked off up in the country for Mr Packer.

Although both are on the small side, comparisons between Border and Neil Harvey seem wide of the mark. Harvey was a genius and Border is not; just as Compton was and Gattling is not. Border is pragmatic and courageous. Should anyone doubt his courage, take a look at his record against the full might of the West Indies in 1983-84. It was splendid. He has more in common with Arthur Morris than Harvey, having had to work at it as Morris did, not like Harvey, done it all by instinct.

On Tuesday evening in Adelaide, Border reckoned that apart from having provided him with a fair degree of personal satisfaction, the century he had scored in Australia's second innings "meant nothing." What he said he is waiting and hoping most fervently for is the day when the century he has just scored has paved the way for an Australian victory. It will come, for sure, and when it does it will be well deserved.

MOTOR RALLYING

A solution to San Remo moves closer

Paris (Reuters) - The Fédération Internationale du Sport Automobile (FISA) yesterday began a two-day executive committee meeting to settle an argument over the San Remo Rally which will crown this season's world champion.

The committee is considering whether to change the results of October's San Remo event following last month's decision by the Fédération Internationale d'Automobile (FIA) appeal court which cleared the disqualified French team Peugeot of infringing race rules. If the result is changed, Peugeot's François Duval, Julia Kankkunen, will be champion. If not, the title goes to his compatriot Markku Alen, of the Italian Lancia team, who won this month's Olympus Rally in the United States to lead the championship 112-110.

Kankkunen was second behind the Lancia of Italian, Massimo Biasion, after the third stage of the San Remo race before Peugeot were disqualified, and would win the world title if the result were annulled.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL
CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division (7.30) Blackburn v Everton.
SOUTHERN LEAGUE: First division (7.30) Southampton v Wolves.
SOUTH-EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: League Cup: Third round (2.00) West Ham v Charlton (at Charlton's home).
FA YOUTH CUP: Second round: Cardiff v Chelsea (7.00); Fulham v Queens Park Rangers (7.30); Shrewsbury v Wolves (7.30); Reading v Oxford (7.30).

RUGBY UNION
COLOURS MATCH: Queen's University v University College, Cork (at Bristol, 2.30).

OTHER SPORT
BADMINTON: Middlesex Championships (at Stratford) 10.00.
BASKETBALL: Carlisle National League: First division: Birmingham Bulls v Shrewsbury United (8.00).
RACQUETS: Public schools championships (at Queen's Club, West Kensington).
TENNIS: Royal Bank Junior Winter Indoor Series for boys (at Belham Abbey).

SKIING



On your bike: Bill Johnson, the 1984 Olympic downhill skiing champion, pauses during a workout. He has an operation on a torn cartilage and will miss the rest of the season

Schneider's victory keeps Swiss rolling

Courmayeur, Italy (Reuters) - Vreni Schneider, of Switzerland, won her first World Cup slalom race here yesterday to take the lead in the overall standings for the event.

Her victory, in a total time of 1min 24.06sec, means that the Swiss team have now won six of the eight cup events so far this season. It also allowed Schneider, a giant slalom specialist, to overtake her team colleague, Maria Walliser, a downhill expert who did not race today, by one point in the overall table. Schneider proved the most consistent of the racers. She clocked the second-fastest time in the first run - only 0.04sec behind her compatriot, Brigitte Ordi - and the fifth best in the second leg.

The victory was her second of the season. She won a giant slalom race in Waterville Valley, in the United States, 11 days earlier - a good start to her defence of the giant slalom title. Schneider, the 1985 slalom cup-winner, who often disappointed last year, proved again that she is back on form with second place here - only 0.05sec behind Schneider.

McKinney, an American who is in her ninth year on the World Cup circuit, also took second place in the opening slalom race of the season - in the United States last month.

BOBSLEIGHING

Phipps at the double

Nick Phipps completed the domestic double for the second time in three years yesterday by winning the British two-man championship at Königsee, West Germany (Chris Moore writes).

Last month, the 34-year-old Londoner drove his Allied Steel crew to victory in the British four-man event at Igls, Austria. Phipps and his brake-man, Alan Cairns, will now compete in the No. 1 British boat in next month's world championships in St Moritz.

Making up the team will be

GOLF

The many sides to Crampton

From John Ballantine, Montego Bay, Jamaica

Bill Tibben always said that a competitor had just as much to do as to win as to lose. He was a career, one bright, meteoric burst like, say, Law Head or Bobby Jones or talent and strength eked out for nearly a lifetime like Ken Rosewall or Sam Snead.

Bruce Crampton, who is the favourite here in the Mazda Champions tournament, confirms the second category in his playing and personality. A winner in the films and stories, the Australian was worn out by nerves and other problems and retired prematurely. For several years he sat, a stone-faced month in a peaceful club job in Dallas.

The "new senior PGA tour for the over-fifties, whose success has astonished even its founders, enabled Crampton to be reborn as a big money winner and here he is the undoubted king of the middle-aged circuit."

The \$730,000 (about £510,000) event, which starts today and carries \$500,000 for the winners brings together the 12 top seniors including Palmer, Casper and Littler and the equally successful members of the LPGA tour like Bradley, King and Inkster.

Crampton was the Crosby at Pebble Beach in the mid-sixties. In play, this son of a policeman was an iron man in his off course demeanour he had an air of implacable mellowness, an awful kind of forced calm. Veritably, he seemed a Frankenstein before the bolts shook loose as they often did.

At San Diego once, he hit an awkward 68-yard pitch 12 feet from a poor start to the season, having lost only one match since half-term. He came back with a "Great shot, Brucey," Crampton wheeled on the fan snapping: "A rotten shot." The spectator slid off his seat: "I paid my money and I can say it's a good shot if I want to."

FOR THE RECORD

RACKETS

QUEEN'S CLUB: Public schools championships: Third round: J. J. Clark (Cheltenham) v J. C. Taylor (Worcester), 4-2; J. S. Taylor (Worcester) v J. C. Taylor (Worcester), 4-2; J. S. Taylor (Worcester) v J. C. Taylor (Worcester), 4-2.

SQUASH RACKETS

AMERICAN EXPRESS LEAGUE: Premier division: Second round: S. Sullivan (Exeter) v J. P. Hargrave (Exeter), 4-2; J. P. Hargrave (Exeter) v S. Sullivan (Exeter), 4-2.

SNOKER

BRISTOL: Tolly All-England championships: Third round: D. North (Gloucestershire) v J. P. Hargrave (Exeter), 4-2; J. P. Hargrave (Exeter) v D. North (Gloucestershire), 4-2.

SWIMMING

QUEEN'S CLUB: SWTA Christmas tournament: Second round: S. Sullivan (Exeter) v J. P. Hargrave (Exeter), 4-2; J. P. Hargrave (Exeter) v S. Sullivan (Exeter), 4-2.

British pursuit of America's Cup gets more support

From Keith Wheatley, Fremantle

White Horse Whisky have decided to continue their support of the British America's Cup team. The early elimination of White Crusader has not deterred the challenge's biggest sponsor from further involvement.

"White Crusader performed well among the toughest competition ever and we feel that the end result did not reflect her true potential," the White Horse marketing director, Paul Ambrose said. "Backing the challenge in such an exciting event as the America's Cup has been a valuable investment for White Horse - no matter what the result."

The exact level of support from White Horse remains uncertain until the New Year but just the knowledge that a big sponsor is at the party has given the British syndicate confidence to make a firm commitment to an entry in next summer's world 12-metre championship at Porto Cervo, Sardinia.

The syndicate chairman, Graham Walker sees it as vital that what has been learned in this campaign is brought forward and developed in racing from now on. "The 1986 challenge should have started the day after the last race in Newport in

Semi-finalists to be checked

A complete re-survey and re-measurement of all the boats which qualified for the semi-finals of the America's Cup was announced yesterday by the Yacht Club Costa Smeralda, which organised the challenger elimination races.

The move should satisfy critics of the leading challenger in the preliminaries, New Zealand, whose weight-distribution has been a source of controversy. Some syndicates believe that the boat is lighter at both ends, and so, unfairly faster.

The tests are likely to involve the use of ultrasonic which is used to measure the thickness of fibreglass in boat hulls. The New Zealand syndicate have so far agreed to any tests that the authorities thought were necessary.

Steak 'n' Kidney may withdraw

The Sydney-based yacht Steak 'n' Kidney is threatening to withdraw from the America's Cup defender trials because of a dispute over the format of the semi-final rounds.

Steak 'n' Kidney's syndicate tried to change the semi-finals from a points-racing contest to one in which the competitors start from scratch, and score in the same way as the challenger series. But the Royal Perth Yacht Club's America's Cup committee decided to retain the original format for the trials.

The Sydney syndicate, which is bottom of the standings, has won three races out of 30, and under the rules of the competition, could be eliminated in the first or second semi-final round if it has insufficient points to become a finalist.

Brew may switch to the triathlon

By Roy Moor

British international swimming is in danger of losing Robin Brew, the Royal Air Force physical training instructor who was such an inspiring captain of the Olympic Games team in Los Angeles two years ago.

He is becoming increasingly captivated by the triathlon - a combination of long-distance running, cycling and swimming. "I enjoy training," Brew says "but when you analyze the end-product of racing in the pool, you compete only a matter of a minute or two at a time after all the hours of daily fitness preparation."

There is a hunger within me to get more satisfaction from all my training, and I am finding that satisfaction in triathlon events."

Since missing a bronze medal in the 200 metres individual medley final at the Los Angeles Olympics by a touch, Brew, aged 24, has become the World

SCHOOLS FOOTBALL

Schools team relies on Lancastrians

Amongst the Northern schools, QEGS Blackburn and Bolton have each won nine school trophies (George Chester writes).

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VARIATIONS

The Beverley Sisters: in this week's 40 Minutes (BBC2, 9.30pm)

Radio 3: 1215kHz/247m:VHF-90-
4m: VHF85.8; BBC Radio London:

CHANNEL 4

2.15 *Their Lordships' House.* A repeat of last night's programme of highlights of the day's proceedings in the House of Lords.

2.30 *Film: My Lovable Heart* (1949) starring Susan Hayward and Dana Andrews. A romantic drama about a woman with a loveless marriage who becomes pregnant by her lover who then becomes a victim of the war. Directed by Mark Robson.

4.20 *Ant & Pandy.* Cartoon.

4.30 *Countdown.* The second semifinal of the words and numbers competition is between Michael Stephenson, the first two winners, and Mike Perric, seeded sixth. Richard Whitley is the questionmaster, assisted by Bill Tidy as adjudicator.

5.00 *Film: The Captain General* (1959) starring Claudette Colbert and Patric Knowles. Drama about a man, his wife and their son who are captured by the Japanese in Borneo at the beginning of the Second World War. They are taken to separate prison camps and given no news of each other. With Florence Desmond. Directed by Jean Negulesco.

7.00 *Channel 4 News* with Peter Sissons and Christopher King.

7.50 *Whiting.* With Peter Sissons on a topical subject is Roger Whiting, a freelance writer and traveller.

8.00 *Iceland Breakthrough.* The second instalment in a series about a quest to conquer a previously uncharted island river - the Jokulsá - Fjotum - using a new exploration technique involving a microfilm aircraft and satellite. The expedition leader, Paul Vander Molen, who was awarded the Royal Geographical Society's prestigious Nees Award, succumbed to the heart disease only to succumb to leukaemia in May last year. (r)

6.30 My Music: The e
popular music p

Radio 3: 1215kHz/247m:VHF-90-
4m: VHF85.8; BBC Radio London:

SPORT

Time and not tide beat the British

HAROLD CUDMORE (left), skipper of the White Crusader, explains why the British yacht's challenge in the America's Cup failed

Britain's White Crusader can be counted in the first division of world-class 12-metre yachts in spite of failing to qualify for the semi-finals of the America's Cup challenger series.

Our performance should be seen in the context of, at best, the great races against USA and New Zealand. Someone had to lose and in both these cases it was us — to USA by three seconds after three and a half hours and to New Zealand by six seconds.

Why? And why didn't we get through to the America's Cup itself and bring the trophy back to Britain?

We had a good yacht, good rig and sails, a good shore maintenance team and a good crew. I can vouch for all of these. Towards the end of the competition we were building up a unique sense of teamwork involving both the boat and the people handling her.

Given a little longer, we could have been in real contention at the end. Which is another way of saying that we started out our campaign a little on the late side. The reason for that was, quite simply, funding. Although £5 million sounds a huge investment, and is, it is less than the funds available to most of the other syndicates and was late in materializing.

Without the backing of Graham Walker we would never have put together a campaign at all and without the further support of our sponsors, White Horse, we could not have continued.

In the time scale allowed us two separate designs for our yacht was a bit adventurous and a longer time would also have benefited the crew by way of more and better experience to develop techniques.

As I said after losing to New Zealand in the last 100 metres, all we needed was a more refined programme. Whatever else we must not lose sight of what we achieved — because it is a major achievement — and be determined that our development will continue.

If we maintain continuity we will be strongly in contention at the next America's Cup in 1990 as well as all the major competitions along the way, including the 12-metre world championships taking place off Sardinia in June 1987.

With one of the fastest-growing sports audiences world-wide, there is an active movement towards the establishment of a 12-metre grand prix circuit — similar to motor racing.

Of the four semi-finalists, I believe that New Zealand should beat French Kiss without enormous problems except, perhaps, in heavier weather when French Kiss is at her best. In the other match between the two very different American boats and skippers, Tom Blackaller — extroverted and mercurial — racing his extraordinary 12-metre USA with its bulb hung on a very small plate and two full-depth rudders against the introverted Dennis Conner with his more conservative boat and long, tough, hard campaign, the result will be difficult to predict, but I believe that Conner will probably dominate unless

Blackaller can consistently grab the speed that is available in his boat.

The final of the challenger series between the clear winner to date, New Zealand, and the winner of the two Americans, will be much closer than perhaps results have indicated. The margins between New Zealand and the other challengers were reduced to almost nothing towards the end of the third round robin.

Whatever the result of the finals, I would still reckon that the challenger will be favourite to take the cup from Australia. The formidable campaigns mounted by the Australians will produce well-honed boats but whether their design has been sufficiently adventurous is open to question.

For the future, Britain must not be afraid to back its sailors, who are world class, and its designers, who have always had the ability and the technical innovation to give us winning boats. This group are worth backing and the commercial concerns that backers will see will be excited by the repayment in this fast-developing new "old" sport.

A divine right to keep winning

By Stuart Jones

Luton Town have perhaps found an answer to their prayers. They have acquired a new team member who did not cost them anything, is not paid anything and does not have a specific role to play but, in whose presence so far this season, the side has yet to lose.

As a secret weapon, no one could be more unlikely than Reverend Mervyn Terrett. He first stood on the terraces of Kenilworth Road at the age of eight and has been going back for "30 odd years." Now he has joined Luton in an official capacity. He has been appointed club chaplain.

He describes himself as "a worker priest. I still have Sunday duties but my full-time job is secretary of the Hertfordshire Society for the Blind. I've been to two-thirds of Luton's home games and they've not been beaten. Having me there is, I suppose, like seeing a man on a plane."

His position at Luton has no clear definition. A club spokesman suggested that he could, among other tasks, carry out wedding ceremonies.

Reverend Terrett himself does not imagine that he will be preaching sermons, conducting services on the artificial surface or, indeed, praying for the grass to grow.

Always ready to lend an ear

"I want to act as a friend," he says, "somebody to talk to, whether it be a player, a member of the ground-staff or whoever. I won't be pushing any Christian beliefs on anybody but I plan just to be there to lend an ear should it be needed."

He will continue to act as "a match-day host", which led to his appointment. A couple of months ago the guest he was to entertain was Reverend Brian Rice, the only full-time chaplain to local government in the country. He also happens to be Hartlepool's chaplain.

Aware that visiting supporters are hauled from Kenilworth Road, he wrote asking if he could go with his son to a game while he was on a course in the area. He also requested to be seated next to the club's religious representative. There was none. So Luton turned to Reverend Terrett.

"I had done one or two things for the club over the years," he explained. "I will be taking other guests there in the future. I'm going to invite my local bishop, from St Albans, to the West Ham game, for instance, because he's a fan of the Hammers."

Commentaries for the blind

"Four parties of blind people will be going to games in the new year. I've done a regular spot on local radio for a while so I will be able to do a commentary for them. Identifying Luton's players presents no problem but I may struggle with the opposition."

He mentioned that "less popular sides like Wimbledon and Coventry might be particularly difficult but you better not quote me on that." On a more serious note, he pointed out that only through Luton's membership scheme is he in a position to carry out his own potentially awkward scheme.

"Escorting four loads of blind people won't be easy but I know there will be no bother. A year ago I would have been more than apprehensive but it is a different world there now. I see very young children taken there quite happily, there are no policemen and even the language has improved."

"It has been revolutionized. It is a shame that there are no way supporters but isn't it better to be able to go to a game and enjoy it? The atmosphere must be a bit quiet at Kenilworth Road but at least it is civilized." As a vicar's tea party?

Hollins thanks supporters

Chelsea's frustrated supporters were given a vote of thanks from the club's troubled manager John Hollins yesterday. Hollins, who has been the subject of angry demonstrations after recent home games, has praised his team's supporters.



Witherspoon's career in doubt after drug trace

From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles

World boxing was yesterday rocked by revelations in New York that former champion, Tim Witherspoon, had failed drug tests before and after his sensational first-round defeat by James "Bonecrusher" Smith in the World Boxing Association heavyweight title fight last Friday. The disclosure could end Witherspoon's career.

Jose Torres, chairman of a New York State Athletic Commission, said yesterday that pre- and post-fight tests on Witherspoon confirmed traces of marijuana in the ex-champion's system.

"This is a terrible blow for boxing, and very embarrassing for us," admitted Torres, a former light-heavyweight champion. "It could set things back ten years. We don't need

this kind of drug scandal in boxing."

Torres, who was at the ringside at Madison Square Garden when 31-year-old Smith, who stepped in at a week's notice after Witherspoon's original opponent, Tony Tubbs, had withdrawn with a shoulder injury, said yesterday: "When I saw Witherspoon at the weigh-in, I was stunned. He didn't appear to be in the best condition. He had breasts like a woman hanging down over his belly. He looked like a young fat boy, in no condition to fight."

Smith knocked the champion down three times in the first round to win the surprising victory. Witherspoon came into the ring a flabby 233½lb. Smith's victory enabled him to go on to meet the

unbeaten Mike Tyson next March for the unified heavyweight title.

This is not the first time Witherspoon has run into trouble with drugs. In Atlanta last January, when he out-pointed Tubbs to win the World Boxing Association title, drug tests also revealed marijuana in his system. At that time, the WBA fined him US\$25,000 (£17,500).

Torres noted: "The first time this happens, a fighter gets a warning and a fine. But now, the second time, well, this is a grave matter."

"Mr Witherspoon has been asked in a letter today to attend a commission hearing on December 29 when he will decide what steps to take. He

could have his boxing licence revoked."

Torres said the commission's own drug tests were confirmed by a second series of tests done by the New York Police Department.

Torres took the opportunity to say he was upset at the state of many of today's leading heavyweights who climb into the ring looking unfit and overweight.

"The heavyweight ranks are in a mess. I see too many boxers who don't take things seriously. Mike Tyson (the unbeaten heavyweight champion) seems to be the only boxer who trains for a fight these days. It is most embarrassing and gives boxing the kind of black eye that we don't need."

FOOTBALL

Rangers chief denies being Anglo-Scottish promoter

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

David Holmes, the chairman of Rangers, yesterday denied that he was the force behind a proposal to stage a tournament featuring the strongest clubs in England and Scotland. He also refuted a suggestion that he would be discussing the idea today with Martin Edwards, the chief executive of Manchester United.

It is believed that the Anglo-Scottish event, an alternative to the British Cup, would begin in March and fill the dates in midweek that are usually reserved for European ties. Everton, Liverpool, Manchester United and West Ham United would represent England; Aberdeen, Celtic, Rangers and Heart of Midlothian would carry the Scottish flag.

"I think it is a good idea but I must stress that I have not been promoting the plan," Holmes said. "But I would be willing to listen to an approach about the tournament as I believe the fans would like a competition like this."

Recent reports that UEFA are unlikely within the next couple of years to lift the European ban they imposed on English clubs last summer have concerned officials of leading English clubs. The cost of being kept out of the rich playing fields of the Continent is potentially substantial. To offset the loss, the bigger clubs have accepted invitations to travel abroad, whenever there is a gap in their schedule, to play in lucrative "friendly" fixtures, often in

the Middle East. Liverpool and Celtic, for instance, flew to Dubai last week to compete for the unofficial British title.

But the success of any plan to hold a money-spinning tournament within these shores would be heavily dependent on the weather, particularly now that the Scottish premier division is packed with 44 matches. Although postponements have so far been rare, the worst of the winter is to come.

● Alex Smith, who has managed Stirling Albion for a decade, is the new manager of St Mirren and Jimmy Bone, a former St Mirren player, who managed Arbroath, is his No. 2. They replace Alex Miller, who recently left to join Hibernian.

No rise in misconduct says FA

The Football Association denied yesterday that misconduct had risen this season, although they conceded it had escalated in the last fortnight when 20 players were sent off. Eric Dinnie, the head of the FA's disciplinary department, said: "The disciplinary record this season is running neck and neck with last season, which, it is true, wasn't a good one for behaviour. But I would be surprised if any records are broken. Sendings-off were well down before last Saturday and cautions are running at about the same number as last season."

The disciplinary committee met yesterday to discuss the cases of Dennis, of Southampton, and Rougvi, of Chelsea, but will not be announcing their decisions until today. Dennis is charged with bringing the game into disrepute for a newspaper article in which he recounted a fracas involving himself and Peter Shilton. Rougvi was sent off on December 6 at Stamford Bridge for hitting John Fashanu, of Wimbledon.

Club seek to amend Cup rules

West Bromwich Albion are to propose a change in the rules of the FA Cup to avoid other clubs in the future being forced to stage unwanted ties. Having been ordered to host the Telford United v Leeds United third round match on Sunday, January 11, they are proposing that when a club feel unable to cope, the opposition should automatically have the right to stage the tie.

"Non-League clubs like Telford can have difficulty staging ties against any major League club," Syd Lucas, the West Bromwich chairman, said. "The rule ought to be uniform to deal with the situation. As it is we have been landed with a match we don't want because another club cannot ensure safe crowd control."

● The Football Family Face, a working party formed to clean up football's image, is to compile a report on how to combat hooliganism for the Sports Minister Dick Tracey, and they intend to urge the Government not to implement an identity card system at every Football League ground.

● The following Sunday matches will be televised live by ITV: January 18, Arsenal v Coventry (2.35); January 25, Nottingham Forest v Everton (2.35).

● Mick Jones, the Halifax Town manager, will tell Peterborough United today whether or not he is joining them as team manager.

● The Manchester United goalkeeper Gary Bailey has passed a crucial comeback test in his first competitive game for 10 months. Bailey showed no ill-effects from a knee injury in a 2-0 Central League win at Middlesbrough on Tuesday night.

Foulds is beaten

Neal Foulds, the No. 6 seed, was eliminated from the Tolly Ales English Championship in Bristol yesterday, beaten 6-3 by Ken Owens. Tony Knowles, seeded third, was beaten 6-2 by Les Dodd.

Botham chase

Derbyshire yesterday officially joined the chase to sign Ian Botham. The club's chief executive, Roger Pearson, confirmed a letter giving 14 days notice of approach to the player had been sent to Somerset.

Charles fined

Peter Charles, a member of the winning British Nations Cup team at Lieges in Belgium last August, has been fined £300 and disqualified from all events at that show following the positive drugs test made on his horse April Sun.

Brain scan

John Westgarth, the Newcastle-based heavyweight, has been ordered by the British Boxing Board of Control to have a brain scan, before he is allowed to fight again.

In the breach

Solent Stars wish to fill the gap left by Polycell Kingston's late withdrawal from the world invitation club basketball tournament at Crystal Palace on January 1 to 4 — if they can rearrange a national league fixture against Bolton on January 3. Solent would then meet Solha, from Sweden, in the first round.



There were no gift-wrapped presents for Emily Bond (above) on the way to the British Women's Tennis Association's Christmas under-14 tournament final at Queen's club yesterday. The Gloucestershire girl beat Caroline Herbert, of Hertfordshire, 6-4, 5-7, 7-5, but the third seed had to come from 2-5 down in the third set of her semi-final and bit her way out of trouble against another of Britain's promising young players.

Without a sponsor this year, the Lawn Tennis Association stepped in with financial

support for the popular women's tournament, where Sally Timms, of Essex, the British hard-court junior champion, seeded No. 7, reached the final with a convincing victory over Amanda Grunfield, of Lancashire, 6-2, 7-5. Miss Timms will meet Teresa Catin, aged 17, The Cambridge girl eliminated Julie Salmon, the favourite from Sussex, the victim of influenza, who retired with trailing 6-7, 0-2. Miss Catin, the eighth seed, outplayed Lisa Gould, of Essex, 6-1, 6-3.

(Photograph: Ian Stewart)

SPORT IN BRIEF

Match switch

Darlington Football Club, still reeling from trouble caused by rival supporters at their game against Middlesbrough in November, have switched their second home derby of the season to a Sunday. The third division club have bowed to pressure from local businesses after hooligans caused chaos in the town centre before the Middlesbrough match when more than 100 people were arrested. Darlington will now play York on Sunday, January 11.

Canoist dies

Paul McConky, a member of Britain's gold medal winning team in the world canoe championships three years ago, has died in a car accident.

Reserve out

Stockholm (AP) — Swedish tennis player, Kent Carlsson, refused to travel with the Swedish team as a reserve, to the Davis Cup final in Australia after a financial dispute with the Swedish Tennis Federation, newspapers said here yesterday.

Gilbody bout

Ray Gilbody, of Warrington, the British bantamweight champion, returns to the ring on February 19 in a title defence against Billy Hardy (Sunderland) at Sutton Sports Centre, St Helens.

Pyatt the best

Chris Pyatt, the European light welterweight champion from Leicester, has been voted "Best Young Boxer for 1986" by the Boxing Writers' Club.

Record in sight

The Commonwealth table tennis champion, Desmond Douglas, is one match from a career milestone. Victory over the former European champion, John Hilton, in the Schildkrot British League on Sunday would mean the former Birmingham bus driver, aged 31, is unbeaten in the League in one and a half seasons, an individual record.

Title defence

Andrzej Grubba, of Poland, holder of the Welsh Open men's singles title, will be defending his crown when the 1987 event is played at the National Sports Centre in Cardiff from April 1 to 4.

Flu threatens

Hull City's home league game against Millwall on Sunday, is threatened by an outbreak of influenza at Boothferry Park. So far five players and assistant manager, Dennis Booth, have been sent home, suffering from a virus.

Games cut

Seattle (AP) — The size of the 1990 Goodwill Games have been cut in half to make them different from the Olympic Games and to cut financial risks. A sponsor spokesman says the Soviets are happy with the change.

Ford transfer

The Wigan scrum half, Michael Ford, has asked for a transfer. Ford, who was regular scrum half two seasons ago recently lost his place to Shaun Edwards on the return to stand-off half of Ellery Hanley.

BADMINTON

England suffer whitewash

England suffered a disastrous day in the Marlboro World Grand Prix finals in Kuala Lumpur yesterday, with seven defeats out of seven (Richard Eaton writes).

The biggest disappointment was the setback of the England No. 1 and Commonwealth champion, Steve Baddeley, who had harboured hopes of making the last four. He went down 18-13, 17-15 to Alan Budi Kusuma, of Indonesia.

Baddeley's rival, Darren Hall, the English national champion, was also beaten. But that was less surprising because he faced Morten Frost, the London-based all-England champion, from Denmark, who is trying to regain the title he won two years ago in the same Negara Stadium. Hall went down 15-9, 15-12.

There was another English singles defeat when Fiona Elliott, the former national champion, lost 11-1, 11-4 to Li Lingwei, the title-holder from China.

ENGLISH RESULTS: Men's singles: Alan Budi Kusuma (Indonesia) beat Steve Baddeley 18-13, 17-15; Morten Frost (Denmark) beat Darren Hall 15-9, 15-12; Women's singles: Li Lingwei (China) beat Fiona Elliott 11-1, 11-4; Men's doubles: Paul and Janet Slingsby (England) beat Martin Daw and Dipak Talwar 15-9, 15-4; Women's doubles: Huang Yuyoung and Chang Yuhui (Taiwan) beat Helen Yates and Helen Perry 15-11, 15-8; Mixed doubles: Thomas Kihlström and Christine Magnusson (Sweden) beat Nigel Tier and Gillian Gower 15-8, 16-11; Stefan Karlsson and Maria Bengtsson (Sweden) beat Andy Goode and Fiona Elliot 17-14, 15-4.

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Source: Group Captain Leonard Cheshire F.C.O., D.S.O., D.F.C.

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